

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2281

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

IGNCA CENTRE IN ODISHA

2281. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to open a full-fledged centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in Odisha State, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of the action taken/to be taken by the Government to preserve and propagate the traditional/ancient culture of Tribals in general and tribal culture of Odisha State in particular?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) At present, there is no such plan to establish a full-fledged centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in the state of Odisha.
- (b) The Government of India recognizes the country's rich cultural diversity. The National Akademis under Ministry Culture have successfully fostered a vibrant art ecosystem by expanding their reach through strategic partnerships with Zonal Cultural Centres, State Akademies, and other government bodies. These institutions and centers actively promote and preserve the diverse cultural heritage of their respective regions, with special emphasis on the needs of tribal communities.

The Ministry of Culture, through its Autonomous Bodies, has taken several steps to preserve and promote the traditional and ancient cultures of tribal communities across India, including in Odisha, as outlined below-:

Some of the key initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has undertaken various initiatives to preserve and promote tribal culture, particularly in Odisha. These initiatives include documenting tribal customs through recordings and written records, creating museum-like spaces to display tribal artefacts, organizing festivals celebrating tribal music and dance, offering scholarships for tribal youth, preserving knowledge about various tribes, and reviving traditional arts.

- (ii) Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) supports tribal and folk art through camps, exhibitions, and publications. Its Bhubaneswar Regional Centre organizes camps for tribal and contemporary artists from Odisha and neighboring states, offering a platform to showcase their work.
- (iii) Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) works to preserve and promote India's performing arts, including folk and tribal traditions. The Akademi organizes festivals, workshops, and exhibitions, and supports documentation and research through grants. Events such as 'Deshaj', Lok Jan Pratha Utsav, Lok Sangam, and Utkarsh celebrate tribal culture and traditions.
- (iv) Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) under the Ministry of Culture actively promote folk and tribal cultures by organizing festivals such as the Hornbill Festival, Tribal Dance Festival, and Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav. These events offer tribal artists a platform to showcase their talents and provide them with benefits to support their livelihoods.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also plays a vital role in preserving and promoting tribal languages, culture, traditions, and customs. Key initiatives include the "Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)" and "Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)" schemes, which provide funding for activities by 29 Tribal Research Institutes and other organizations. These initiatives include creating bilingual dictionaries, publishing educational materials in tribal languages, documenting folklore, conducting workshops, and supporting research on tribal medicinal practices and traditional knowledge.

Additionally, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) organizes the Adi Mahotsav festival at the national and state levels, as well as Tribal Artisan Empanelment Melas (TAeMs) to identify new artisans and products. These events help expand the base of tribal producers.

In recognition of tribal communities' significant contributions to India's history, the Indian government declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in 2021, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a revered tribal leader and freedom fighter. This day honors the role of tribal communities in India's progress and freedom struggle.
