

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 15
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ASSAM

*15.MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken specific initiatives to promote and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Dhubri, Assam particularly the region's traditional art forms, languages and festivals, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the measures being implemented by the Government to enhance infrastructure and funding for cultural institutions and events in Dhubri, ensuring that local artists, cultural practitioners and organizations have access to necessary resources and support; and
- (c) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to ensure inclusivity and representation of all cultural and ethnic communities in promoting Assam's identity at the national level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 FOR REPLY ON 03.02.2025 REGARDING PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ASSAM ASKED BY MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN

(a) To promote and preserve various traditional art forms and festival of Assam including Dhubri and its rich cultural heritage, the Government of India has set up two Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) viz. North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur and Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata in which Assam is the member State of both the ZCCs. These ZCCs organize a number of cultural programmes and activities including Dance, Workshop, folk & tribal festival etc. in the State of Assam throughout the year on regular basis. A list of programmes done in Assam in the last 5 years is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

The Union Cabinet of India has granted classical status to the Assamese language on 3rd October, 2024.

(b) A number of measures have been implemented by the Government to enhance infrastructure and funding for cultural institutions and events in Assam including Dhubri, ensuring that local artists, cultural practitioners and organizations have access to necessary resources and support. Ministry of Culture administers various Central Sector Schemes through which financial support is provided to the cultural institutions/ individual artists, the details of which are given at **Annexure-II**.

(c) To ensure inclusivity and representation of all cultural and ethnic communities of the country including the State of Assam, NEZCC & EZCC engage local artists from their member states for showcasing their talent in various cultural programmes organized throughout the country for which they are paid honorarium, DA/TA, boarding & lodging and local transport. Besides, under National Cultural Exchange Programme, artists from other zones/ states are invited to participate in programmes/ festivals organized by Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) where audience get the chance to enjoy and understand art forms of different regions. For instance, 'Vividhhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav' from 8th to 11th February, 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi and 'Bhartiya Kala Mahotsav' from 28th September to 6th October, 2024 at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Hyderabad were organized through NEZCC in which various cultural performances by the artists from North Eastern Region including Assam were showcased. Similarly, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) in which artists from all the states of the country come together and showcase their performances in various parts of the country ensuring inclusivity and representation of all cultural and ethnic communities in promoting state's identity at the national level. Till date, 14 RSMs and 04 Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture, the details of which are given at **Annexure-III**.

Octave - a festival of the North East which is also organized by all seven Zonal Cultural Centres to promote folk culture of the North Eastern States by way of providing an exclusive platform to the artists and artisans of NE Region including Assam.

Sahitya Akademi regularly invites Assamese authors, poets, scholars, and translators to participate in literary events across India.

Assamese literature is actively translated and promoted through Akademi's national translation initiatives.

The Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) has incorporated Assamese cultural elements including artistic depictions of Bihu folk dance, Puttichitra art, traditional masks and tea cultivation scenes in its Regional Centre, Kolkata. LKA also provides platforms for Assamese artists in national exhibitions, camps and workshops.

ANNEXURE-I**Annexure referred to in reply to part(a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15
for 03.02.2025**

List of programmes done in Assam in the last 5 years

2019-20

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Date	Venue
i.	Shree ShreeBadala Padma Aata 473 rd Birth Centenary Celebration	13-15 June, 2019	Panjabari, Guwahati, Assam
ii.	Classical dance & music Festival on the occasion of 150 th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	19-21 Sept, 2019	Natya Mandir Nalbari, Assam
iii.	Workshop on Mask Making	21-30 Sept, 2019	Tezpur, Assam
iv.	Workshop on EthnicCostume, Traditional Garments Making in Handloom	21-30 Sept, 2019	Tezpur, Assam
v.	Workshop on Cane & Bamboo Craft	21-30 Sept, 2019	Tezpur, Assam
vi.	Workshop on Traditional Drums Making	21-30 Sept, 2019	Tezpur, Assam
vii.	Panchakala Utsav - 2019	18-20 Oct, 2019	Guwahati, Assam
viii.	Workshop on SeraikelaChhau dance	4-10 Nov, 2019	Sonapur, Assam
ix.	Workshop on Langkhon Fuja Mishwa dance	8-14 Nov, 2019	Morigaon, Assam
x.	Inter State Folk & Tribal Dance Festival	21-23 Nov, 2019	Sonapur, Assam
xi.	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Cleanliness Programme)	20 Feb, 2020	Assam

2020-21

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Date	Venue
i.	Sattriya Dance Presentation	22 to 24May, 2020	Online
ii.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav at Assam	28 Sept, 2020	Online
iii.	Purbaranga National Theatre Festival	7-9 Dec, 2020	Guwahati, Assam

2021-22

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Date	Venue
i.	Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)	12 May, 2021	Online
ii.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam	17 May, 2021	Online
iii.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam (Part-II)	05 June, 2021	Online
iv.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam (Part-III)	19 June, 2021	Online
v.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam	04 July, 2021	Online

	(Part-IV)		
vi.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam (Part-V)	24 July, 2021	Online
vii.	Production Oriented Theatre Workshop on Swachh Bharat & Covid-19	21-30 Aug, 2021	Dibrugarh, Assam
viii.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav of Assam (Part-VI)	29 Aug, 2021	Online
ix.	Meet of Cultural & Tourism Ministers of North Eastern States	13 & 14 Sept, 2021	Guwahati
x.	Cultural evening on the eve of Tourism & Cultural Minister Conference of North Eastern States	13 & 14 Sept, 2021	Guwahati, Assam
xi.	Theatre Workshop at Guwahati	13-22 Sept, 2021	Guwahati, Assam
xii.	Workshop on Kamrupia Dhulia	25 Sept - 4 Oct, 2021	Nalbari, Assam
xiii.	National Level Theatre Festival	28 Oct, 2021	Lakhimpur, Assam
xiv.	Sangeet Stuti	25 Dec, 2021	Lakhimpur, Assam
xv.	Bihu Mahotsav	3-5 Feb, 2022	Barihat, Assam
xvi.	Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB)	3 Mar, 2022	Nogaon, Assam

2022-23

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Date	Venue
i.	Experimental Learning Conclave - 2022	1 April, 2022	Guwahati, Assam
ii.	Workshop on Aainaam and Biyanaam	1-10 Sept, 2022	Jorhat, Assam
iii.	Workshop on Folk Songs of Assam	9-18 Sept, 2022	Nalbari, Assam
iv.	SwachhtaPakhwada	3 Oct, 2022	Dibrugarh, Assam

2023-24

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Date	Venue
i.	International Yoga Day	21 June, 2023	Kamrup, Assam
ii.	Sangeet Stuti 2023	10 Aug, 2023	Teok, Assam
iii.	Workshop on AnkiyaZhumura	26 Aug, 2023	Sivasagar, Assam
iv.	Production oriented drama workshop	3 Sept, 2023	Guwahati, Assam
v.	Theatre Workshop cum Street Play	5 Sept, 2023	Guwahati, Assam
vi.	Workshop on AnkiyaZhumura	9 Sept, 2023	Sivasagar, Assam

Annexure referred to in reply to part(b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15
for 03.02.2025

Schemes administered by Performing Arts Bureau, Ministry of Culture

1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF GURU-SHISHYA PARAMPARA (REPERTORY GRANT): The objective of this scheme is to provide financial support for all genres of performing arts activities like dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children theatre etc. and imparting training of artists by their respective Guru on regular basis in line with Guru-Shishya Parampara. As per the scheme, support is provided to 1 Guru and maximum 18 Shishyas in the field of theatre and 1 Guru and maximum 10 Shishyas in the field of music & dance. The Amount of Assistance for Guru is Rs.15000/- p.m. and for the Shishya, the same is Rs.2000-10000/- p.m. depending upon the age of artist.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE:
This scheme has following sub-components:

i. Financial Assistance to Cultural organizations with National Presence:
To promote and support cultural organisations with national presence involved in promotion of art and culture throughout the country, this grant is given to such organisations that have a properly constituted managing body, registered in India; having a pan-India character with national presence in its operation; adequate working strength; and have spent Rs. 1 crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities. The quantum of grant under this scheme is Rs.1 crore which can be increased to Rs. 5 crore in exceptional cases.

ii. Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG): The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Universities etc. for Seminars, Conference, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The maximum grants provided under CFPG is Rs.5 Lakh for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 20.00 lakhs in exceptional cases.

iii. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas: The objective of this scheme component is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas through research, training and dissemination through audio visual programmes. The financial support is provided to the organizations in the States falling under the Himalayan Region i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The quantum of funding is Rs. 10.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 30.00 lakhs in exceptional cases.

iv. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization: Under this scheme component financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including Monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and tradition and research in related fields. The quantum of funding under scheme component is Rs. 30.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 1.00 crore in exceptional cases.

v. Financial Assistance for Building Grants including Studio Theatres: The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, University, College etc. for creation of Cultural infrastructure (i.e. studio theatre, auditorium, rehearsal hall, classroom etc.) and provision of facilities like electrical, air conditioning, acoustics, light and sound systems etc. Under this scheme component, the maximum amount of grant is up to Rs.50 Lakh in metro cities and up to Rs.25 Lakh in non- metro cities.

vi. Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities: The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial assistance to all eligible organizations for creation of assets for enhancing the audio-visual spectacle for allied cultural activities to give firsthand experience of live performances on regular basis and during festivals in open/closed areas/spaces. Maximum assistance under the scheme component, including applicable duties & taxes and also Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costing for five years, will be as under:- (i) Audio: Rs.1.00 crore; (ii) Audio+Video: Rs. 1.50 crore.

vii. Domestic Festivals and Fairs: The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs' organized by Ministry of Culture.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TAGORE CULTURAL COMPLEXES (TCC): The aim of the scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, State / UT Govt. University, Central/State Govt. agencies/bodies, Municipal Corporations, reputed not-for-profit organizations etc. for creation of new Large Cultural Spaces such as Auditorium with facilities and infrastructure for stage performances (dance, drama and music), exhibitions, seminars, literary activities, green rooms, etc. The Scheme component also provides support for restoration, renovation, extension, alteration, up-gradation, modernization of existing cultural facilities (Rabindra Bhawans, Rangshalas) etc. Under this scheme component, the financial assistance for any project will normally be up to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore. Central financial assistance would be 90% of the total approved project cost and remaining 10% of the total approved project cost will be borne by the recipient State Govt./NGO or concerned organization for NER Projects and except NER, there is 60:40 ratio for central assistant and state share (matching share).

4. SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE: The scheme consists of following three components:

i. Scheme for the Award of Fellowship to Outstanding Persons in the field of Culture: Upto 400 fellowships (200 Junior and 200 Senior) are awarded in a batch year to outstanding persons in the age group of 25 to 40 years (Jr.) and above 40 years (Sr.) in different cultural fields @ of Rs. 10,000/- p.m. and 20,000/-p.m. for the period of 2 years for cultural research. The Fellowship is released in four equal six monthly installments.

ii. Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields: Upto 400 Scholarships are awarded in a batch year. Under this scheme financial assistance is given to young artistes of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Music etc. @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years. The Scholarship is released in four equal six monthly instalments.

iii. Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research: The purpose of the Scheme Component is to invigorate and revitalize the various institutions under the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and other identified cultural institutions in the country, by encouraging scholars/ academicians to affiliate themselves with these institutions to work on projects of mutual interest. Upto 15 Fellowships (Rs.80,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) and 25 Scholarships (Rs.50,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) for a maximum period of 2 Years. The Fellowship is released in four equal six monthly instalments.

5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN ARTISTS: The objective of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance of Rs. 6,000/- p.m. to the old artistes and scholars aged 60 years above having annual income not exceeding Rs.72,000/- who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. In the event of death of the beneficiary, the financial assistance is transferred to his/her spouse.

6. SEVA BHOJ YOJANA: Under the Scheme of 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to public shall be reimbursed as Financial Assistance by the Government of India. Free 'prasad' or free food or free 'langar'/ 'bhandara' (community kitchen) offered by charitable/religious institutions like Gurudwara, Temples, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Math, Monasteries etc. are covered under Seva Bhoj Yojana.

ANNEXURE-III

**Annexure referred to in reply to part(c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15
for 03.02.2025**

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs/ Zonal Level Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs organized
by Ministry of Culture

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs

Sl. No.	Year	Venue
1	2015	Delhi (IGNCA)
2	2016	Delhi (IGNCA)
3	2016	Uttar Pradesh (BHU, Varanasi)
4	2017	Karnataka (Bengaluru)
5	2017	Arunachal Pradesh (Tawang)
6	2017	Gujarat(Ahmedabad)
7	2018	Karnataka (Hubli, Bengaluru and Mangalore)
8	2018	Madhya Pradesh(Gwalior, Bhopal and Indore)
9	2018	Uttarakhand (Tehri)
10	2019	Madhya Pradesh(Jabalpur, Sagar and Rewa)
11	2021	West Bengal(Cooch Behar, Darjeeling and Murshidabad)
12	2022	Andhra Pradesh (Rajahmundry) and Telangana(Warangal & Hyderabad)
13	2023	Maharashtra (Mumbai)
14	2023	Rajasthan (Bikaner)

Zonal Level Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs

Sl. No.	Year	Venue
1	2023	Rajasthan (Kota)
2	2023	Delhi (Central Park)
3	2023	Maharashtra (Pune)
4	2024	Telangana (Hyderabad)
