

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 143
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025**

'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists'

**143. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar
Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant
Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav
Shri Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh
Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the veteran artists in the country and whether the Government has taken cognizance of interests of the said artists and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any scheme for financial assistance of veteran artists is in place in the Country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any pension is being provided to the veteran artists under the said scheme, if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (d) the criteria set and policy framed therefor;
- (e) the number of artists selected under the scheme for Financial Assistance for veteran artists during the last ten years along with the details of amount of monthly pension, State-wise;
- (f) the number of veteran artists being provided with financial assistance under the said scheme in Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (g) the number of details of pending pension applications received under the said scheme from various States including Maharashtra during each of the last five years, State-wise;
- (h) whether several veteran artists of Maharashtra are not getting the amount of their pension for the last two years despite submitting the necessary documents, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (i) the total amount of pension lying pending for payment to the said artists of Maharashtra till December 2024; and
- (j) whether the Government proposes to pay the pending amount of pension to all such artists expeditiously and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' with the objective to support old and poor artists. The financial assistance being provided to the artists under the scheme is not any kind of pension in the conventional sense. Instead, it is meant as a grant in the form of financial assistance provided for improving the financial and socio-economic status of the old artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their active age or are still contributing in the field of arts, letters etc. but due to old age are unable to generate a steady income. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided upto maximum Rs. 6000/- per month to the selected artists of all States/UTs including Maharashtra. However, artist pension if any, is received by the selected artists from their respective State Government/UT Administration, the same is deducted before release of the assistance to such artists.

(d) The scheme guidelines provide for the following eligibility criteria for consideration of financial assistance to the applicant under the scheme:

- i. Traditional scholars who have made significant contribution to art & letters, etc. in their fields
- ii. Annual income of the applicant must not exceed Rs. 72,000/-
- iii. The applicant artist should not be less than 60 years of age.
- iv. The applicant artist should be a recipient of artists pension of at least Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration, or the artistic credentials of the applicant is verified and recommended by Art & Cultural Department of the concerned State / UTs or the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture.
- v. The applicant artist should not be getting financial assistance under any other scheme of the Ministry of Culture.

(e) The number of artists supported and quantum of financial assistance provided under the scheme during the last 10 years is at **Annexure-A (a) & A (b)**.

(f) The number of artists selected from Maharashtra under the Scheme during the last three years is given at **Annexure - B**

(g) to (j) Release of financial assistance to the selected artists under the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' depends on submission of certain mandatory documents such as, Digital Life Certificate (DLC) once in a year, annual income certificate once in every five years, documents showing receipt of artist pension, if any, from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Once the requisite

mandatory documents are received from the selected artists, which are a continuous process throughout the year, all efforts are made to disburse the financial assistance expeditiously. Accordingly, the number of veteran artists from the State of Maharashtra getting Financial Assistance under the scheme during last five years is given below:

Financial Year	Number of Veteran Artist supported	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)
2021-22	448	190.49
2022-23	740	273.49
2023-24	1239	795.97
2024-25 (till date)	1248	450.28

Annexure A (a)

Annexure referred in reply to part (e) of LSUSQ No. 143 answered on 03.02.2025

SI No.	States	FY - 2014-15	FY - 2015-16	FY - 2016-17	FY - 2017-18
1	Andhra Pradesh	304	295	312	324
2	Assam	28	28	34	37
3	Bihar	38	38	41	41
4	NCT of Delhi	38	38	42	42
5	Goa	7	7	8	8
6	Gujarat	5	5	5	5
7	Haryana	28	28	28	29
8	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	6	6
9	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	2	2
10	Jharkhand	6	6	7	13
11	Karnataka	613	588	673	673
12	Kerala	219	212	288	315
13	Madhya Pradesh	30	30	45	48
14	Maharashtra	760	684	871	871
15	Manipur	109	97	117	124
16	Meghalaya	1	1	1	1
17	Mizoram	4	4	5	5
18	Nagaland	0	0	2	2
19	Odisha	218	198	241	241
20	Puducherry (UT)	6	6	6	6
21	Punjab	3	3	7	7
22	Rajasthan	3	3	14	14
23	Tamil Nadu	185	165	229	229
24	Telangana	90	90	103	103
25	Tripura	0	0	0	1
26	Uttar Pradesh	198	188	201	202
27	Uttarakhand	8	8	11	11
28	West Bengal	60	60	77	77
	Total	2967	2788	3376	3437

Total Financial Assistance released from 2014-15 to 2017-18*	
Financial Year	Amount (Rs. In crore)
2014-2015	15.63
2015-2016	13.86
2016-2017	13.17
2017-2018	15.30

* State-wise breakup of funds released during these years is not available.

Annexure referred in reply to part (e) of LSUSQ No. 143 answered on 03.02.2025

Sl. No.	States	FY - 2018-19		FY-2019-20		FY - 2020-21		FY - 2021-22		FY - 2022-23		FY - 2023-24	
		Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.49	41	22.16	54	5.1	29	72.29	89	84.66	148	153.30	191
2	Assam	1.68	4	1.92	5	0.96	2	0.48	1	1.57	1	2.41	3
3	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.47	14
4	NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.87	8
5	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Haryana	0.44	7	0.04	1	-	-	0.93	1	0.56	2	3.69	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Jharkhand	2.57	42	1.11	8	2.28	8	3.00	5	3.59	7	3.88	4
11	Karnataka	64.42	168	30.29	102	29.97	144	59.55	146	64.32	130	341.98	344
12	Kerala	27.57	108	13.34	83	8.18	24	24.49	57	25.3	51	64.21	67
13	Madhya Pradesh	2.64	45	5.41	16	2.44	6	5.04	12	3.86	6	6.95	7
14	Maharashtra	72.82	234	85.86	324	106.61	206	190.49	448	273.49	740	795.97	1239
15	Manipur	4.48	11	3.08	13	3.36	9	7.84	16	0.6	5	14.7	13
16	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Nagaland	0.16	1	0.04	1	0.48	1	0.92	2	0.12	1	3.28	2
19	Odisha	156.28	436	84.04	238	119.46	355	276.95	828	306.77	966	1063.40	1460
20	Puducherry (UT)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Rajasthan	1.27	10	0.87	5	0.07	2	1.23	2	0.71	2	1.36	2
23	Tamil Nadu	19.58	45	9.92	36	0.87	6	15.49	22	14.6	21	46.96	41
24	Telangana	72.2	181	86.18	163	53.2	86	217.29	342	268.16	489	274.94	293
25	Tripura	0.78	2	0.06	2	0.24	1	0.92	2	0.12	1	-	-
26	Uttar Pradesh	1.8	21	3.2	8	5.12	9	13.08	46	15.46	58	67.24	82
27	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.43	2
28	West Bengal	10.71	46	8.26	25	5.09	37	12.31	32	11.71	27	28.53	35
	Total	445.93	1356	355.82	1084	343.46	925	902.30	2051	1075.6	2655	2896.57	3811
	LIC	1527.66	2764	1461.78	2104	527.85	1075	639.87	978	783.58	996	0	0

	Grand Total	1973.59	4120	1817.6	3188	871.31	2000	1542.17	3029	1859.18	3651	2896.57	3811
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ANNEXURE – B**Annexure referred in reply to part (f) of LSUSQ No. 143 answered on 03.02.2025**

Sl. No.	District	2022	2023	2024
1	Ahmednagar	12	1	0
2	Akola	0	0	0
3	Amravati	0	1	1
4	Aurangabad	137	36	7
5	Beed	30	14	4
6	Bhandara	12	9	0
7	Buldhana	5	6	1
8	Chandrapur	7	5	0
9	Dhule	40	18	1
10	Gadchiroli	1	2	0
11	Gondia	2	4	0
12	Hingoli	18	6	5
13	Jalgaon	4	1	0
14	Jalna	52	28	5
15	Kolhapur	14	0	0
16	Latur	12	8	7
17	Mumbai	5	1	0
18	Nagpur	63	28	3
19	Nanded	59	52	14
20	Nandurbar	2	0	0
21	Nashik	11	6	1
22	Osmanabad	13	1	0
23	Palghar	0	0	0
24	Parbhani	20	21	9
25	Pune	3	1	2
26	Raigad	3	1	0
27	Ratnagiri	0	0	0
28	Sangli	8	2	1
29	Satara	1	0	0
30	Sindhudurg	0	1	0
31	Solapur	4	2	1
32	Thane	0	2	0
33	Wardha	0	2	0
34	Washim	5	3	0
35	Yavatmal	5	6	6
	Total	548	268	68