

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5510**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

**PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL CULTURE**

5510. Smt. Malvika Devi:

Will the Minister of **TRIBAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that tribal culture and festivals are preserved;
- (b) whether there is any programme that encourages tribal communities to showcase their culture, languages and products and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of times in a year the said programmes are organized to promote tribal culture and languages among the general public; and
- (d) the incentives or schemes introduced to support tribal communities in preserving and promoting their cultural heritage?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

**(a) to (d):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)' extends financial support to 29 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in States/Union Territories (UTs) on the basis of the Annual Action Plan submitted by the States/UTs subject to the approval of the Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the Scheme, proposals relating to infrastructural needs, research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals, yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and tourism and organisation of exchange visits by tribals are organised so that their cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated. TRIs are primarily institutions under the administrative control of the State Government/UT Administration. Under the scheme, following activities have been undertaken for the preservation of tribal culture:

1. Ministry has sanctioned 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums in 10 states to acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people and to exhibit rich tribal cultural heritage of the region. Other than these, Ethnographic Museum are also sanctioned to showcase rare artefacts, dresses, ornaments, weapons etc related to life and culture of various tribes.
2. Tribal Research Institutes organise different events like National Tribal Craft Mela, National/State Tribal Dance Festival, Art Competition, Workshop – cum – Exhibition on Tribal paintings and state-level tribal poet and writers meet. Further Ministry provides funds to organize tribal fairs & festivals, festivals like "Medaram Jathara" undertaken by the Koya Tribe of Telangana, Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, Sarhul Festival of Jharkhand, Lokotsav of Goa and Pawl Kut festival of Mizoram, etc.
3. Research studies/publication of books/documentation including audio visual documentaries for promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage which includes preservation of tribal languages.

4. Research and documentation of Indigenous practices by tribal healers and medicinal plants, Adivasi Languages, agriculture system, dances and paintings, organization of literary festivals, publication of books written by tribal writers/ authors, translation works and literature competitions, etc. Preparing Bilingual Dictionaries, Trilingual Proficiency Modules, Primers for students of Class I, II and III in tribal languages under Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) Intervention in the line of New Education Policy 2020. Publishing Varnamala, local rhymes, and stories in tribal languages. Publishing books, journals on different tribal languages to promote tribal literature. Documenting folklore, and folktales of different tribes for preservation and promotion of tribal folk tradition. Collecting oral literature (songs, riddles, ballads etc.)
5. Ministry has developed a searchable digital repository where all research papers, books, reports and documents, folks' songs, photos/videos are uploaded. The repositories can be visited at <https://repository.tribal.gov.in/> (Tribal Digital Document Repository)
6. Government of India has declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honour all the tribal freedom fighters to remember and acknowledge their contribution to the freedom struggle and cultural heritage, and to re-energize the efforts for the socio-economic development of the tribal regions. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with other central ministries, state governments, and other institutions are celebrating the glorious history of its tribal people, culture, and achievements since 2021.
7. Development of bilingual Primers for the preservation of tribal languages and enhancement of learning achievement levels amongst the Scheduled Tribe Students. Many language primers have been developed by various State Governments.
8. Tribal cultural exchange programmes including tribal women SHGs
9. TRIFED also organizes Adi Mahotsav festival at National level and State level and Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) to identify new artisans and new products at the sourcing level in States/Districts/Villages for expanding the tribal producers base.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture is the nodal Ministry for the promotion of culture including tribal culture as part of its larger mandate for protection and preservation of India's diverse culture. To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture including tribal culture throughout the country, the Ministry of Culture has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) in the country during 1985-86 with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. Various festivals like Hornbill Festival, Octave, Tribal Dance Festival, Adi Bimb, Adi Sapta Pallav, Adi Lok Rang, Adiwasi Mahotsav, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs etc. are organised through Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) of Ministry of Culture to promote & preserve the tribal culture.

Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing "Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission" (PMJVM) scheme through TRIFED to preserve and promote tribal art, culture and handicrafts and for socio-economic development of tribal communities across the country. TRIFED organizes "Aadi Mahotsav" annually at Delhi to showcase tribal products at the national level. TRIFED undertakes retail marketing of tribal products through its TRIBES India Outlets & E-Commerce platforms. It also organizes Exhibitions like Aadi Bazaar, Aadi Chitra etc at various parts of the country. Further, under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM), TRIFED undertakes empanelment of tribal artisan and procurement of various tribal products from them for generating livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

Furthermore, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Central Sector Scheme 'Tribal Research Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)' which aims at promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage, dissemination of information and creation of awareness, including organization of tribal craft & food festivals, sports, music, dance & photo competitions, science, art & craft expos, workshops, seminars, production of documentary films by the Ministry & States, bringing out publications highlighting significant studies, documenting historical facets of tribal

communities, achievements of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) & State Departments besides other necessary publicity at regular intervals.

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