

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1262
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

PROMOTION OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

1262. SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being run by the Government to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture as well as to promote the culture and heritage of the country;
- (b) the details of the financial schemes being run by the Government to support the folk artists of all genres of performing arts in Karnataka and the number of artists benefited from it; and
- (c) whether the Government has any special scheme to promote folk artists of Karnataka on the national and international platforms and if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance being provided by the Government to promote the traditional fair festivals of Karnataka?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art & culture as well as to promote the culture and heritage of the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States. The ZCCs also implement number of schemes viz. Award to Young Talented Artistes, Guru Shishya Parampara, Theatre Rejuvenation, Research & Documentation, Shilpgram, Octave, and National Cultural Exchange Programme to promote the culture and heritage of their member States.

(b) Ministry of Culture runs Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) Scheme under which financial support is provided to folk artists of all genres of performing arts viz. musical groups, dance groups, theatre groups including children theatre, music ensembles etc. Under the scheme, the amount of assistance for Guru (leader of the Group) is Rs. 15,000/- per month and for the Shishya is Rs. 2,000-10,000/- per month depending upon the age of the artist.

Ministry of Culture also administers a scheme for Financial Assistance to Veteran Artists under which financial assistance is provided to the eligible veteran artists of the country including the State of Karnataka. The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance of Rs. 6,000/- p.m. to the old artists and scholars aged 60 years and 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.

During the year 2024-25, 397 artists of Karnataka have been benefited under this scheme.

Karnataka is a member State of South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture) who engages folk artists from the State of Karnataka during various cultural activities & programmes organized by them for which artists are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging, local transport etc. During the year 2024-25, 716 artists of Karnataka have been benefited by SZCC, Thanjavur.

(c) To promote the traditional fair festivals of the country including Karnataka, Ministry of Culture runs a scheme viz. Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPG) under which financial assistance is provided to NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Universities etc. for organizing Seminars, Conferences, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. Under this scheme, the maximum grant is Rs. 5.00 lakh which can be increased to Rs. 20.00 lakh in exceptional cases.

Ministry of Culture through its ZCCs organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at national level in the country by providing a platform to a large number of folk artists from all over India including the State of Karnataka who showcase their talents during the event. Till date, 14 RSMs and 04 Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by the Ministry of Culture.

Ministry of Culture also implements a scheme titled “Global Engagement Scheme” to promote India’s rich cultural heritage and enhance India’s image in the global arena in a concerted manner. The objective of the Scheme is to provide artists practicing Indian art forms, an opportunity to perform abroad under the banner of ‘Festival of India’. Under the Scheme, artists from diverse cultural fields such as Folk Art including Folk Music, Folk Dance, Folk Theatre & Puppetry, Classical and Traditional Dance, Experimental/ Contemporary Dance, Classical/ Semi Classical Music, Theatre etc. perform in the ‘Festivals of India’ abroad. Ministry of Culture has empanelled a number of artists/groups under various art forms for performing in the Festivals of India abroad.
