

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
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ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

INCLUSION OF LOCAL ART FORMS IN NATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVALS

2523. SHRI AMARSING TISSO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether traditional music, dance and crafts of tribal communities from Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao have been included in any national-level cultural festivals organised by the Government;
- (b) the criteria used for selecting regional art forms for representation at national and international platforms; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to promote tribal artists through zonal cultural centres or digital platforms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) Yes, Sir. Traditional music, dance and crafts of tribal communities from Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao have been included in national & regional level cultural festivals organised by North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture).

Local artists and craftpersons from these regions have participated in community cultural programmes and craft exhibitions organized by NEZCC. Further, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao have also been identified for focused promotion under NEZCC's special initiatives for reviving vanishing art forms for promotion and preservation of their unique heritage through festivals and dedicated projects.

Moreover, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture) has also included traditional music, dance and crafts of tribal communities from Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao through its programmes such as Octave, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav & Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav.

(b) For representation at national platforms, various regional art forms are chosen which are based on its cultural uniqueness, authenticity and traditional value. Special attention is given to rare, endangered and lesser known art forms. Local scholars, community elders and cultural experts assist in identifying genuine artists and groups.

For representation at international platforms, the Indian Missions abroad decide the art form for inclusion in Festival of India keeping in mind the recent cultural events held in their countries with the view to broad-base the projection of Indian culture. At the first instance, the Indian Missions select a theme on which the cultural event has to be organized from the following:

- i. Dance (classical and traditional, modern experimental/ contemporary, folk, fusion etc.)

- ii. Music vocal (classical, semi-classical, modern carnatic etc.)
- iii. Music Instrumental
- iv. Theatre
- v. Folk arts like Rangoli, puppetry etc.
- vi. Exhibitions
- vii. Literary Festival
- viii. Food Festival
- ix. Film Festival
- x. Yoga
- xi. Fashion Show/Textile Exhibition

After selection of the theme, a proposal is sent by Indian Missions abroad to Ministry of Culture to send cultural troupes as per the selected theme/ art form of the event. Accordingly, Ministry of Culture sends various groups who are experts in their respective art form to the Indian Missions abroad.

(c) To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art & culture including tribal culture throughout 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 for which they engage folk/tribal artists.

Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at national level through these ZCCs where a large number of folk & tribal artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs and four (04) Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture up till now in the country.

Ministry of Culture participated in Republic Day Celebrations from 2022 to 2025 through cultural programmes like Vande Bharatam Dance Event & Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam. 485, 479 & 1500 folk/ tribal artists participated during 2022, 2023 & 2024 respectively. In 2025, as a tribute to 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, over 5000 folk and tribal artists represented youth power, artistic heritage and Nari Shakti drawn from the length and breadth of India represented the varied tapestry of culture and diversity of India's heritage.

MadhavpurGhed Fair 2022 to 2025 was organized in Gujarat. The fair was an epitome of the deep cultural and historical relationship that western State of Gujarat shares with the North-Eastern States. The cultural inputs for the event were facilitated by NEZCC. 120 tribal artists in 2022, 239 tribal artists in 2023, 45 tribal artists in 2024 & 800 tribal artists in 2025 from North East Region have participated.

Octave - a festival of the North East which is 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 tribal artists and artisans of NE Region to promote and propagate their rich cultural heritage.

It is stated that in all these programmes, artists are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging, local transport etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.
