

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3470  
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025**

**‘Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists Scheme’**

**3470. Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh**

**Shri Imran Masood and**

**Shri M K Raghavan**

Will the **MINISTER OF CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the eligibility criteria for giving pension to veteran/elderly artists in the country who have gained recognition in fields such as art, music, dance, theatre etc.;
- (b) the number of proposals received by the Government under the Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists scheme during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of applications received from Maharashtra and action taken thereon during the last five years along with the artists receiving financial assistance under the said scheme State/UT-wise including Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed significant delay in the disbursement of financial assistance under the said scheme and if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of applications approved and rejected during the last five years along with the reasons of the rejection, State/UT-wise particularly in Maharashtra and Kerala;
- (f) whether the Government has received any proposals from any Member of Parliament from Maharashtra for the same, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (g) the details of special efforts made by the Government to mitigate the hardships of the beneficiaries in earning their livelihood under the said scheme?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM**

**(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) Ministry of Culture administers a scheme by the name of ‘Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists’, under which financial assistance is provided to the eligible veteran artists. Assistance provided under the scheme is not any kind of pension to these artists. Following are the eligibility criteria for providing financial assistance under the scheme:

- i. The applicant artist should have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. in their active age or are still contributing;
- ii. The applicant artist should not be less than 60 years of age;

- iii. Annual income of the applicant must not exceed Rs. 72,000/-;
- 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 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.

(b) The State-wise number of proposals received under the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' during the last five years is annexed at **Annexure-I**.

(c) The number of proposals received from the State of Maharashtra and action taken thereon during last five years are as follows:

Year	Proposals			Numbers of Artists supported	Amount disbursed (in Lakh)
	Received	Approved	Rejected		
2020-21	238	187	51	206	106.62
2021-22	1451	547	904	448	190.49
2022-23	1158	268	890	740	273.49
2023-24	1469	68	1401	1239	795.97
2024-25	1188	Under Process		1392	541.19

The details of artists receiving financial assistance under the said scheme State/UT-wise including the State of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala during last five years is annexed at **Annexure-II**. The district-wise data of beneficiaries under the said scheme is not available in this Ministry.

(d) Release of financial assistance to the selected artists under the said scheme 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 is a continuous process throughout the year, all efforts are made to disburse the financial assistance expeditiously.

(e) The number of applications approved and rejected under the scheme received from all the States/UTs including Maharashtra and Kerala during the last five years is annexed at **Annexure-III**. Applications found incomplete due to non-submission of recommendations of Art & Culture Department of State Government/UT administration or ZCC under this Ministry and lack of artistic credentials are rejected.

(f) Yes sir, this Ministry has received 35 proposals from the Members of Parliament of Maharashtra during last three years. The following are the details of the action taken thereon:

Sl No	Action taken	Number of Proposals
1.	Proposals rejected in the initial scrutiny	5
2.	Proposals already recommended by the Expert Committee	5
3.	Proposals not recommended by the Expert Committee	3
4.	Fresh proposals as informed through the Members of Parliament have not been received yet	13
5.	Proposals to be placed before the upcoming Expert Committee Meeting	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>

(g) To mitigate the hardships faced by the beneficiaries selected under the scheme, the following efforts have been made by this Ministry in the recent years:

- (i) The quantum of financial assistance under the scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 4000/- per month to Rs. 6000/- per month w.e.f. June, 2022;
- (ii) The requirement of submitting income certificate every year has now been done away with and instead it is now required to be submitted once in five years;
- (iii) Earlier, the applicant artist applying under the scheme should have been mandatorily be a recipient of artists pension of atleast Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. This condition has been relaxed and now also provides for verification and recommendation of the artistic credentials by the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture in case the applicant is not a recipient of artists pension from the State Govt./UT Administration;
- (iv) To ensure smooth and timely disbursal of financial assistance to the selected artists, an MoU has been signed with Canara Bank on 28.06.2023.

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**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the  
Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3470 for 11.08.2025**

Sr. No.	State	Applications received in the year				
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	52	233	218	291	160
2	Assam	3	4	2	0	0
3	Bihar	0	0	36	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	1
5	Delhi	0	1	0	3	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	507	74
7	Gujrat	0	0	0	0	1
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	1
9	Jharkhand	0	0	1	0	1
10	Haryana	0	0	0	2	0
11	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	2	2
12	Karnataka	136	190	176	250	173
13	Kerala	22	28	79	14	6
14	Madhya Pradesh	3	2	2	2	10
15	Maharashtra	238	1451	1158	1469	1188
16	Manipur	12	0	3	1	0
17	Nagaland	1	198	0	0	3
18	Odisha	584	2698	2127	1136	927
19	Puducherry	0	0	0	1	0
20	Punjab	0	0	0	1	6
21	Rajasthan	2	5	1	1	28
22	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	66	31	23	15	36
24	Telangana	142	509	849	483	260
25	Uttar Pradesh	68	9	15	38	87
26	Uttarakhand	1	0	0	1	1
27	West Bengal	1269	54	26	53	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2603</b>	<b>5416</b>	<b>4717</b>	<b>4270</b>	<b>2990</b>

**Annexure-II**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the  
Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3470 for 11.08.2025**

(Amount in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	FY - 2020-21		FY - 2021-22		FY - 2022-23		FY - 2023-24		FY - 2024-25	
		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	5.1	29	72.29	89	84.66	148	153.3	191	115.90	177
2	Assam	0.96	2	0.48	1	1.57	1	2.41	3	0.90	2
3	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.47	14	4.62	7
4	NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.87	8	4.92	10
5	Haryana	-	-	0.93	1	0.56	2	3.69	4	1.94	4
6	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.12	41
7	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.30	1
8	Jharkhand	2.28	8	3	5	3.59	7	3.88	4	2.76	3
9	Karnataka	29.97	144	59.55	146	64.32	130	341.98	344	354.67	397
10	Kerala	8.18	24	24.49	57	25.3	51	64.21	67	85.82	80
11	Madhya Pradesh	2.44	6	5.04	12	3.86	6	6.95	7	14.95	13
12	Maharashtra	106.62	206	190.49	448	273.49	740	795.97	1239	541.19	1392
13	Manipur	3.36	9	7.84	16	0.6	5	14.7	13	14.94	14
14	Nagaland	0.48	1	0.92	2	0.12	1	3.28	2	1.08	2
15	Odisha	119.47	355	276.95	828	306.77	966	1063.4	1460	1,106.51	1995
16	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.30	1
17	Rajasthan	0.07	2	1.23	2	0.71	2	1.36	2	2.52	2
18	Tamil Nadu	0.87	6	15.49	22	14.6	21	46.96	41	36.61	34
19	Telangana	53.2	86	217.29	342	268.16	489	274.94	293	207.07	309
20	Tripura	0.24	1	0.92	2	0.12	1	-	-	-	-
21	Uttar Pradesh	5.13	9	13.08	46	15.46	58	67.24	82	80.46	109
22	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.43	2	4.83	4
23	West Bengal	5.09	37	12.31	32	11.71	27	28.53	35	20.37	39
	Total	343.46	925	902.3	2051	1075.6	2655	2896.57	3811	2,609.77	4636
	disbursed through LIC	527.85	1075	639.87	978	783.58	996	0	0	0.00	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>871.31</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1542.17</b>	<b>3029</b>	<b>1859.18</b>	<b>3651</b>	<b>2896.57</b>	<b>3811</b>	<b>2,609.77</b>	<b>4636</b>

## Annexure-III

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the  
Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3470 for 11.08.2025**

Sr No	Name of State	Applications Approved and Rejected in the year									
		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected
1	Andhra Pradesh	35	142	34	18	91	142	33	185	38	253
2	Assam	0	12	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	0
3	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0
4	Delhi	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	374
6	Gujrat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
9	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	1	2	0
11	Karnataka	49	296	114	22	3	187	23	153	21	229
12	Kerala	12	33	21	1	8	20	9	70	1	13
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	8	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	2
14	Maharashtra	128	759	187	51	547	904	268	890	68	1401
15	Manipur	0	28	12	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
16	Nagaland	0	859	1	0	0	198	0	0	0	0
17	Odisha	130	437	340	244	1260	1438	622	1505	32	1104
18	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19	Punjab	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	Rajasthan	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	1
21	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	2	77	14	52	1	30	1	22	1	14
23	Telangana	53	475	116	26	306	203	193	656	15	468
24	Uttar Pradesh	0	16	65	3	1	8	0	15	22	16
25	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
26	West Bengal	0	2243	914	355	32	22	0	26	15	38
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>5396</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>3165</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>3567</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>3915</b>

