

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4041
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

NATIONAL FAIR STATUS TO GANGASAGAR MELA

4041. SHRI BAPI HALDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the long-standing demand from the people of West Bengal and the State Government of West Bengal to grant national fair status to the Gangasagar Mela, in parity with the Kumbh Mela as it annually attracts over one crore pilgrims from across India as an event of national cultural and spiritual significance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is likely to consider inclusion of Gangasagar Mela in its list of centrally recognized religious events and extend financial and infrastructural support to improve pilgrim amenities, transportation and disaster management in the region; and
- (e) whether the Government has received any formal proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for the same and if so, the status thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d) The Government is aware of the significance of the Gangasagar Mela, which is held annually at West Bengal and attracts a large number of pilgrims from different parts of the country. The Gangasagar Mela is organized by the State Government of West Bengal and arrangements relating to pilgrim amenities, transportation and disaster management are undertaken at the State level. The Central Government, under its existing schemes and programmes, has provisions through which the State Government may seek admissible support for cultural promotion and related infrastructure.

Whenever, festivals/ fairs of National/ regional importance are being organized by State Governments, the Ministry of Culture provides cultural troupes for performances during the event on the request of the organizers.

(e) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. Inclusion of any Mela in the list of Centrally recognized religious events does not come under the purview of Ministry of Culture.
