

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-161**  
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

**PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FOLK ART FORMS OF WESTERN ODISHA**

161. SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the status of endangered folk art forms of Western Odisha such as Danda Nata, Dhap Dance, and Ghubukudu Nacha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of art forms identified that needed urgent preservation;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend financial assistance, training support and digital documentation for artists from districts like Balangir, Sonepur and Bargarh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government is likely to consider for launching a targeted “Odisha Folk Heritage Revival Programme” to safeguard these art traditions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) No such survey has been conducted in this regard. However, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture) has organized specific programmes in Dhap Dance and Ghubukudu Nacha under Vilupt Lok Evam Janatiya Kala Uthan Mahotsav and in other cultural programmes to document and preserve intangible folk and tribal cultural heritage of Odisha.

(c) & (d) EZCC engages folk artists from their member States including Odisha & its districts of Balangir, Sonepur and Bargarh during various cultural activities & programmes organized by them for which they are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging, local transport etc.

Under the Guru Shishya Parampara project of the ZCCs, disciples are trained by veterans in rare and vanishing art forms. Such art forms are identified in the region and eminent exponents are selected to conduct training programmes in Gurukula tradition. The monthly remuneration for Guru – Rs. 7,500/-, Accompanist – Rs. 3,750/- and Pupils - Rs. 1,500/- each for the period of six month to maximum 1 year for one art form. The names of the Gurus are recommended by the State Cultural Affairs Departments.

All the Zonal Cultural Centres (autonomous organizations under Ministry of Culture) are actively undertaking digital documentation of artists to preserve and promote India's diverse cultural heritage. Through this initiative, detailed records of traditional, folk and tribal artists are created in digital formats for future reference and dissemination. The documentation enables better outreach, recognition and support for artists, while also serving as an authentic resource for researchers and cultural institutions. This effort contributes to safeguarding intangible cultural traditions across regions.

(e) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government of India.

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