

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1488
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

PROMOTION OF ASSAMESE ARTISTS

1488. MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any special scheme to promote folk arts, classical dance forms and traditional music of Assam at the national and international level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the number of beneficiaries covered from Assam under existing schemes; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase representation of Assamese artists in national platforms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art including traditional folk music of North Eastern States including the State of Assam, the Government of India has set up North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) at Dimapur (Nagaland). Assam is also the member State of Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States including the State of Assam for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

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/tribal artists from all over India including the State of Assam who showcase their talents during the event. Till date, 14 RSMs and 04 Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by the Ministry of Culture across the country.

Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India administers a scheme viz. "Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields" in which financial assistance is given to young artists (upto 400 scholarships in a batch year) of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music & Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual Art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Music etc. @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years. The scholarship is released in four equal six-monthly installments. The number of beneficiaries benefitted in the State of Assam under the scheme are 28 during 2022-23, 89 during 2023-24 and 58 during 2024-25.

Besides, 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. The number of organizations benefitted in the State of Assam under the scheme are 37 during 2022-23, 54 during 2023-24 and 23 during 2024-25.

To promote the traditional fair festivals of the country including Assam, Ministry of Culture also runs a scheme viz. Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPG) under which financial assistance is provided to organizations for organizing Seminars, Conferences, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The number of organizations benefitted in the State of Assam under the scheme are 48 during 2022-23, 68 during 2023-24 and 24 during 2024-25.

At international level, EZCC, Kolkata deputed Sattriya and Bihu artists from Assam for the World Expo-2025 held at Osaka, Japan during September-October, 2025.

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 627 artists/groups under various art forms for performing in the Festivals of India abroad, out of these 17 artists/ groups are empanelled from Assam. So far, 4 artists/groups from Assam have been deputed to perform in the Festivals of India viz. 02 artists/groups in France (2023-24) and 01 artist/group in Qatar (2018-19) and 01 artist/group in Freedom 70 events held in Sri Lanka (2017-18).

(d) Artists from the State of Assam are regularly engaged and accorded due representation in major cultural festivals and events organized by all seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, at national platforms. Folk and traditional artists from Assam participate in Inter-State and National-level festivals in order to have wider exposure of the State’s unique cultural traditions, promoting cultural exchange and national integration. Such participation provides performance opportunities and financial support to the Assamese artists to sustain and popularize the rich folk and tribal heritage of Assam among diverse audiences across the country.
