

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2019**

Financial Assistance to Folk Art Groups

1206. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides any monetary help or Pension to various Folk Art groups especially from Tribal community and if so, the details thereof.
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to promote such Folk Art groups on various National and International platforms;
- (c) whether any inter-cultural festival has been organized by the Government to cherish rich cultural heritage of the country during the last four years and the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) Yes Madam, the Govt. is implementing a Scheme namely Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes to improve financial and socio-economic status of the old aged artistes and scholars including various Folk Artists who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc., but leading a miserable life.

(b) To promote & preserve various forms of art including Folk and Tribal Art, 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 are organizing various programmes and events in its member States to promote cultural development programmes.

(c) & (d) To promote the inter-cultural activities of our country, the Government of India has organized Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at New Delhi (November, 2015 and October, 2016), at Varanasi (December, 2016), at Bengaluru & Tawang (March, 2017) at Gujarat (October, 2017), at Karnataka (January, 2018) and at Madhya Pradesh (February, 2018). A Sanskriti Mahotsav was also organized at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during February, 2018. In addition to these Mahotsavs, these ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis throughout the country for promotion of culture wherein artist from the various parts of the country participated.
