GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1374
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

FUNDS USED FOR AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

1374. SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE:
SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:
SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:
SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:
SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)   the aim and objectives of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) programme, along with the list of events held, State-wise;

(b)   the detailed account of events held as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), State-wise;

(c)   the details of the funds utilised for these events, State-wise; and

(d)   the specific action taken by the Government to honour freedom fighters and the manner in which they have been honoured?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT
OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative spearheaded by the Government of India, marks the commemoration of 75 years since the nation attained independence.

It was the idea to celebrate unsung heroes from across the country from which the germination of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav took place. Multiple dates were pondered over to flag off this historic celebration, a countdown to India's Independence's

diamond jubilee. The date 12th March was finalized as it commemorated Mahatma Gandhi's historic Dandi Yatra march of 1930, which protested British monopoly on manufacturing and selling of salt.

The 75-week countdown to August 15, 2023, not only commemorated 75 years of independence but also the glorious history and unique diversity of the country's people, culture, and languages. This Mahotsav was celebrated as a Jan Utsav in the spirit of Jan Bhagidari. The Hon'ble Prime Minister not only started off a 75-week-long Festival but also flagged off a metaphorical 386 Km Dandi March to celebrate the 91st Anniversary of the historic Salt March.

The objective behind celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was not only to bring people and communities together for the celebration of world's largest democracy, but also to pave way towards India of the future, i.e., India @2047. The aim was to prepare the future generations for spearheading global change with India's holistic leadership. To do so, a national committee was constituted which featured some of the most prominent names of India like the then President of India, Chief Justice of India, renowned singer Late Lata Mangeshkar ji, Nobel Laureate Late Amartya Sen, all state Chief ministers, multiple governors, and multiple Central Government ministers.

Initially the celebration featured five themes, including honouring freedom fighters, inspiring future ideas, and ideals, setting goals for 2047, promoting efforts to position India globally, and showcasing the nation's achievements since independence. These themes were titled as:

1. Freedom Struggle

2. Ideas@75

3. Resolve@75

4. Actions@75

5. Achievements@75

In its second phase Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav promoted 9 themes including:

1. Women and Children

2. Water

3. Unity

4. Inclusive Development

5. Cultural Pride

6. Health and Wellness

7. Aatmnirbhar Bharat

8. LiFE

9. Tribal Empowerment

It emphasized unity and citizen participation, encouraging the public to hoist the national flag in their homes and instilling a sense of love, pride, and responsibility towards the nation. This 75-week celebration aimed to foster a deeper understanding of India's history, heritage, and the contributions of its people while inspiring a shared vision for the nation's future.

Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) more than 2.00 lakh events/ programmes have been organised in last two years. The entire country has participated in these events. Out of 2.0 lakhs events, about 1.9 lakh events held in Ministries/Deptts/States/UTs have been published on the website. State-wise details of events published on website are annexed.

There was no separate budget under AKAM. Hence, all Ministries/Departments, State Governments, UTs and their Attached/Subordinate/Autonomous Bodies, PSUs etc. incur the expenditure on the events organised by them from their respective budget heads.

(d)A Digital District Repository has been compiled to discover and document stories of people, events, and places linked to the freedom struggle of India at the micro level of the district. As on date, about 14500 stories have been compiled and uploaded on the portal. These stories are broadly classified under the heading - People & Personalities, Events & Happenings, Hidden treasures -Built & Natural Heritage, and Living Traditions & Art Forms.

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