

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 11
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

'Financial Assistance to Veteran Artists'

11. Adv. A.M. Ariff:

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of artists who are selected under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists and the amount of pension received per month, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that several veteran artist from the State of Kerala are not receiving their pension even after the submission of requisite documents for the past two years and if so, the details thereof including the month from which the pension is pending and the total pension amount pending for payment as on 31.10.2023 for veteran artists from Kerala;
- (c) the details of total pension amount pending till date for such artists from Kerala;
- (d) whether the Government will consider expediting the payment of pending pension to all such artists and provide a time-frame for the same; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to increase the monthly pension amount to veteran artists and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE,
TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION**

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists" for senior artists aged 60 years and above who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture, but are facing financial difficulties due to old age.

As per the extant Scheme guidelines the financial assistance upto Rs. 6000/- per month is being provided to the selected artists irrespective of the States/UTs to which the concerned beneficiary belongs. Under the scheme 11233 artists from different States/UTs have been selected.

(b), (c) & (d) It has been the constant endeavor of the Government to make continuous efforts to ensure timely disbursement of the financial assistance to the selected beneficiaries of all States/UTs including State of Kerala, upon receipt of requisite documents from them. The disbursement of financial assistance under the Scheme, however depends upon submission of certain mandatory documents by the beneficiaries. Once the requisite documents are received from the beneficiaries, all efforts are made to disburse the financial assistance expeditiously. Further to ensure timely disbursement of financial assistance to the beneficiaries, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023.

(e) No Sir, the scheme was recently reviewed and monthly financial assistance has been increased from Rs.4000/- to Rs.6000/- from June, 2022. No further proposal to increase the monthly financial assistance to veteran artists is under consideration.
