

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2049  
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2006  
PENSION FOR DISTINGUISHED PERSONS .  
Singh Shri Sugrib

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) The number of persons receiving Central Pension for 'Man of Arts' at present, State-wise;
- (b) The details of the pension provided to such persons and when the same was revised last;
- (c) The criteria fixed to award such pension;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to change the criteria to cover some more communities under the said pension scheme; and
- (e) The steps taken by the Government to award such pension to more persons from Tribal communities of the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE ( SMT. AMBIKA SONI )

(a)&(b) : Ministry of Culture is operating the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other Walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents. The Scheme has two components namely Central Quota and Central State Quota. Under Central Quota, financial assistance of Rs.2,000/- per month is released by Ministry of Culture to the artistes direct. Under the Central State Quota, Ministry of Culture extends an assistance of Rs.1,500/- per month and sends it to the artistes concerned direct. The balance amount of Rs.500/- is given by the State/UTs concerned direct. The State-wise break-up is given in Annexure attached. The financial assistance was last revised w.e.f. 1.10.1998.

(c) The Scheme is applicable to people aged 58 years or above distinguished in letters and arts who may be in indigent circumstances and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs.2,000/-. In case of death of a recipient, the financial assistance may be continued at the discretion of the Central Government after examining the financial condition of the dependent. In case of spouse, the benefit will last till life and for dependents it is till marriage or employment or 21 years of age.

(d) The Government do not propose to change the criteria under the Scheme.

(e) The Scheme is equitably implemented on all India basis without any specific reference to any particular community.