

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2377

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006

PERFORMANCE OF ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES

Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar

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

- (a) the details of the Zonal Cultural Centres functioning in the country alongwith the locations thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has ever reviewed the performance of these centers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of these centres?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE ( SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) The Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to extend support to folk and traditional artistes and artisans of the country. Each Centre is provided with a corpus fund. The participating States also contribute a proportionate amount to the corpus fund. Each centre works as an autonomous body with Governor of the State, where it is located, as it's Chairman. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres are located at Patiala, Nagpur, Allahabad, Thanjavur, Kolkata, Udaipur and Dimapur.

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. U.R.Anantha Murthy was set up in 1994 to review the functioning of these Zonal Cultural Centres. The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows;

- i.) To review the working of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCC) with reference to the objectives for which they were set up;
- ii) Suggest how they can even better serve the purpose of enriching and strengthening the cultural patterns in their respective areas of operation;
- iii) Suggest ways and means for adequate and effective networking with similar State/Central bodies and other cultural institutions of eminence in the country.
- iv) Suggest ways of developing involving the artistic community in the total literacy campaign leading to a kind of cultural resurgence in the Country.

(c) The Committee, in its report recommended greater outreach, more emphasis on tribal/folk art, documentation of rare & vanishing art forms, better co-ordination with National and State Akademies and patronage to young and upcoming artistes.

(d) As a follow up to these recommendations new Schemes directly funded by the Ministry of Culture have been introduced. These include Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme and Guru Shishya Parampara. Subsequently Young Talented Artistes Scheme was also introduced. The Government is regularly monitoring the progress of these Schemes.