

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3416
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
PROBLEM FACED BY THEATRE ARTISTS
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the problems faced by the Theatre Artists in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to uplift the conditions of the performing artists; and
- (c) the steps are being taken to promote the theatre particularly the traditional and folk theatre?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A Scheme for financial Assistance to professional groups and individuals for specified performing art projects is in operation in which production grant up to a maximum of Rs.1.00 lakh is provided for approved projects and programmes in performing arts. Salary grant assistance to performing art groups to help them to establish themselves in their fields is also being provided. Under the Scheme of Award of Scholarship to young artists a scholarship of Rs.2000/- per month is given for a period of two years. Senior & Junior fellowships are given in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts at the rate of Rs.12,000/- & 6,000/- per month respectively for a period of two years. The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (C.C.R.T) operates a Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme for children between the age group of 10 to 14 years at the rate of Rs.600/- per month. The scheme for promotion and dissemination of tribal Folk Art and Culture also provides financial assistance to performing artists.

(c) Steps taken are:-

- (1) National School of Drama is providing training in the field of theatre since 1959
- (2) Sangeet Natak Akademi under its Scheme of Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions is supporting theatre Institutions of the Country.
- (3) National & Regional theatre Festivals are organized all over the country.
- (4) State and Zonal level workshops are organized each year to provide assistance to young theatre Artists.
- (5) Interaction programmes with theatre artists are organized from time to time.
- (6) 'Rang Pratibha', a State wise theatre festival of young theatre directors is organized in various States.
- (7) Sangeet Natak Akademi has organized festival of traditional theatre in India in all North Eastern States & in Mumbai
- (8) Two special festivals of folk & traditional theatre of Jammu & Kashmir have also been held recently.
- (9) In the Akademi Awards given annually by Sangeet Natak Akademi at least one Award is given each year to folk/traditional theatre.
- (10) One award has been given in the field of folk/traditional theatre under Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar scheme instituted by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006.
- (11) Sangeet Natak Akademi presents the works of established theatre Directors in its festivals under the Rang Sangam Scheme.
- (12) The Sangeet Natak Akademi has undertaken a survey of folk theatre forms of the country to preserve the folk and traditional theatre.
- (13) The National School of Drama has a scheme for "Promotion of Folk & Tribal Arts Theatre". Various folk and tribal theatre groups are invited to participate every year in National Theatre Festival (Bharat Rang Mahotsav) and Bal Sangam.
- (14) The Zonal Cultural Centres operate a "Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme" for promotion of traditional & folk theatre.