

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *52
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND DECEMBER, 2021**

STIMULUS PACKAGES TO ASSIST ARTISTS OF ODISHA

***52. SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified the number of artists in Odisha who have been unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether Government proposes to introduce stimulus packages to assist artists of Odisha who have suffered financial loss due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *52 DUE FOR REPLY ON 02-12-2021 REGARDING “STIMULUS PACKAGES TO ASSIST ARTISTS OF ODISHA” BY SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA, M.P.

(a) to (d): Government of Odisha has informed that they do not have information regarding unemployed artist due to Covid-19. However, they have organized many awareness programmes during COVID-19 to involve the artists to participate and earn their livelihood. 1.5 lakh folk artists have been identified and enrolled by the Government of Odisha under Artist Federation Scheme. Government of Odisha is also providing monthly financial assistance @ Rs. 1200/- per month to 35,000 numbers of artists of different categories under “Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana”.

Ministry of Culture, Government of India has also taken a number of steps to extend help to artists during Covid-19 pandemic. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 9.27 crore has been extended to artists as remuneration, Dedicated help lines were opened to enable the artists to avail maximum benefits of the financial grant schemes, Folk/ Tribal artists were offered online platforms for paid performance and Old artists getting ‘Artist Pension’ were allowed the release of pension amount by way of granting exemption from the mandatory condition of submission of annual income certificate. Ministry of Culture has ensured speedy and timely release of the grants under the above said schemes to help the artists who faced financial crisis and lost their means of livelihood during Covid-19.

Further, Ministry of Culture is implementing various schemes viz., Financial assistance under Repertory Grant Scheme, Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Development of Buddhist/ Tibetan Art and Culture, Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme, Scheme of Scholarship & Fellowship for promotion of Art & Culture, Financial Assistance to Cultural Organizations with National Presence, Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of Himalayas, Scheme of Pension & Medical Aid to Artists, Financial assistance under Seva Bhoj Yojna and Financial Assistance for Cultural Activities in Performing Arts for Building Grants Including Studio Theatres.