

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, February 24, 2011/ Phalguna 5, 1932 (Saka)

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-*Contd.*

^SMT. B. JAYASHREE, making her maiden speech, said: India has the oldest cultural tradition in the world. India's beauty lies in its rich and unique cultural heritage. I feel very much proud to be an Indian. I am the grand daughter of Shri Gubbi Veeranna, who is remembered as a pioneer of Kannada Theatre. I was introduced to the world of theatre at a tender age. I joined the National School of Drama New Delhi and graduated in the year 1973. As we are all aware, India's greatness lies in its unity in diversity. But, it is very unfortunate that we are underestimating our rich heritage. We should understand that our future lies in our roots. These roots need to be strengthened. An awareness must be created amongst our children. We need to inculcate values through our cultural traditions like theatre, music, folktales, literature etc.

In the old days, there used to be a special bondage between the child and the grand parents, which no longer exists now. This has

***This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**

^ Synopsis of speech delivered by Hon'ble Member in Kannada.

resulted in lack of guidance for our children in their early life. Home is first school of a child. Every household should take up the responsibility of patronizing our culture and heritage, by introducing their children to our rich festivities, culture, native art forms etc. Shri Yehudi Menuhin had said that there is a lack of mediation and creativity everywhere, especially in schools. The art is missing from lives and we are giving way to violence. Next, the concept of 'Theatre in education' must be initiated at the primary level itself. Teaching should be through our literature, folk forms, theatre, native arts, culture and music etc. Such a vision would nurture our culture and enable the positive exchange of modern ideas with the existing theories. Shri Rabindranath Tagore had said that literature, music and art are all necessary for the development of students to form an integrated total personality. We are neglecting the actual basic needs of the children. They lack playgrounds, parks, traditional games, game tools, and places to meet together. Our younger generations are growing amid all these inadequacies. That is why a National academy should be set up to concentrate on teaching and reviving our regional art forms. Paying a honorarium to all the artists, who are earning these art forms, will help them to sustain with their mission and children can identified with their roots. Indian arts are an amalgamation of science, health, psychology, numerology etc.

A children's academy can cater to their developmental activities, and achieving a healthy, balanced and well-educated society will become a reality. It would help us to save the art forms like Prasad Natak, Bhav of Odissa, Krishna Parjata of Karnataka, Nautanki of Lucknow, which are on the verge of extinction. With due respect to all foreign languages, basic education must be given in each one's mother tongue in a scientific manner. The ancestral folk art forms are not able to support themselves. So, the artists are switching over to other profession. If such ancestral folk forms can be assured of respect, livelihood and sustenance, the artists definitely will survive. Department of Culture must be rejuvenated to revive our traditional and folk art forms. Priority must be given to appoint well-versed and experienced artistes to the prominent strategic posts in cultural bodies.

Cultural festivals should be organized across the country. A museum must be set up with the help of around Rs.100 crores of fund. There is no cultural and performing arts training centre run by the Government. In every city, theatres should be built, where plays, music and dance concerts, puppet shows and traditional folk forms can be showcased throughout the year. There is also a need for cultural exchange between the States to understand, learn and appreciate each other's traditional and folk forms. The Government has to establish institutions on par with the standard of IIM and IIT for arts and culture education. Art managements, art revival, museum management, cultural administration etc. should be taught and secured. The existing art and culture academies need to be revamped, monitored, regularized and granted more powers. Development and modernization of national museum must be taken up. The organizations and institutions, striving towards creating cultural training facilities and awareness amongst the youth, must be supported and funded. The NGOs in different States should be recognized and encouraged. More number of art galleries and studios, with free and open space for artists must be established, wherein more artefacts can be exhibited without space constraints.

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