

Cultural Agreements

*755. **Shri Ravindra Varma:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1022 on the 9th May, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India has since concluded cultural agreements with any more of the African countries that have become independent after 1956; and

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the nature of agreements?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ravindra Varma: May I know the reasons why it has not been possible for us to enter into cultural agreements with any of the newly independent African countries during the last five years?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The major reason is that the initiative for such agreements has generally come from the other countries, and our view is that in practice it makes no difference whether there is an agreement or not.

डा० गोविन्द दास : अभी चाहे एप्रिमेंट न हुए हों, लेकिन क्या कुछ देशों से इस सम्बन्ध में लिखा पढ़ी चल रही है और अगर नहीं चल रही है तो क्या आगे कुछ लिखा पढ़ी चलने की आशा की जा सकती है ?

श्री हुमायून् कबिर : मैंने कहा हम इस बारे में कदम नहीं उठाना चाहते । लेकिन इस की वजह से कल्चुरल एक्सचेंज बन्द नहीं रहता । जिस मुल्क से कोई एप्रिमेंट नहीं है, जैसे यूनाइटेड किंगडम और यू० एस० ए०, वहां से भी एक्सचेंज हो रहा है और दूसरे मुल्कों से भी हो रहा है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know with what countries in Africa our Government has cultural exchanges?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This question was answered last time.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether our cultural teams which are sent to the countries with which we have got agreements, get some special benefit there?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I have said, it does not make much difference, but on the other hand, the signing of a cultural agreement often arouses expectations which we cannot satisfy.

Shri Ravindra Varma: May I know whether the Government is aware that the fact that we have not yet entered into cultural agreements with any of these newly independent African countries while we have entered into agreements with nine other countries during these five years has created a feeling that the priority we have accorded for cultural relations with these countries is rather low, and if so, what action Government propose to take to counteract this?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said, there are cultural exchanges even without any agreement, and we have not entered into any agreement except on the initiative generally from the countries which want it, because our general policy is to have these exchanges without agreement. So far as the African countries are concerned, during the current and next financial year there is a proposal to send cultural delegations to, and invite similar delegations from, these countries, and we are inviting a delegation of officers from African countries for administrative training course in India.

Cement Factory at Sabalgarh, Madhya Pradesh

*756. **Shri Ram Sewak:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned a licence to open a cement factory at Sabalgarh, Madhya Pradesh in the private sector;