

Criteria for sponsoring artistes by ICCR for tours abroad

183. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some Indian dancers and artistes charged the Indian Council for Cultural Relations with not following any clearly laid-down criteria in sponsoring artistes on cultural tours abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the allegations have been made but the ICCR has not deviated from its norms & procedures. In one case, an artist who specifically wanted to go to the U.K. in connection with the Festival of India was informed to approach the special Committee for selecting entries & artists for the Festival as ICCR was not concerned with the matter. In another case the programme as desired by the artist could not be arranged due to factors beyond the control of both the host Government and the artist. However, the programme for the artists has been fixed for September, 82.

The Council receives many applications from interested organisations and artistes, who desire to go abroad. These applications are forwarded to competent bodies in the field of dance, music and performing arts for their expert opinion. Thereafter, these are examined by the Programme Committee of the Council which makes the final selection

Kothari Committee Recommendations

184. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the recommendations of the Kothari Committee which were submitted in April, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Adult Education Programme has been accorded high priority for inclusion in the minimum needs programme in the Sixth Five Year Plan and under the new 20-point-programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have broadly accepted the recommendations made by this Committee for the implementation of the adult Education Programme. Copies of the Kothari Committee Report are available in the Library of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Adult Education Programme has been included in the Minimum Needs Programme as a component of Elementary Education in the Sixth Five Year Plan as well as in the new 20 Point Programme. Emphasis will be laid on raising the literacy rate of women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society and special attention would be paid to districts with literacy rate below the national level.

A provision of Rs. 123 crores comprising Rs. 60 crores in the Central Plan and Rs. 68 crores in the State Plans has been made for Adult Education Programmes in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Plan Document envisages coverage of cent percent adult illiterates in the age group 15-35 by 1990. The new 20 Point Programme envisages greater involvement of students and voluntary agencies in the programme for removal of adult illiteracy.