

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5555
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
ICCR OFFICE AND CULTURAL CENTRES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has a number of offices and cultural centres in the Caribbean area of Latin America;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) the details of activities carried out by them;
- (d) whether any monitoring of their activities is done from time to time; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes sir,

(b) The Council is maintaining Indian Cultural Centres in Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Suriname) and Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago).

(c) The major activities of these Centres are imparting training in Indian languages, music, dance and yoga; organising lectures, talks, panel discussions and seminars on Indian history, arts and culture; hosting cultural troupes from India and implementation of the scholarship schemes of the Council.

(d & e) The Council continuously monitors and reviews the activities of these Cultural Centres with a view to make the functioning of the Centres more effective. For this purpose, the Council has instituted a system of monthly reporting by the Centres on their activities. The Council also undertakes special review of the functioning of these Centres in consultation with our Heads of Missions in these countries.