

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002

PROMOTION OF INDIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE ABROAD

CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to promote Indian culture and heritage abroad for the benefit on Non-Resident Indians:

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Promotion of Indian culture and Heritage abroad for the benefit of foreigners and Non-Resident Indians is done through the Indian Council for cultural relations(ICCR).

One of the primary objectives of the ICCR is to promote greater awareness of India's composite cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up 14 Cultural centers abroad. Several of these Centers have been set up in countries having sizeable populations of Non-Resident Indians and People of Indian Origin, such as Trinidad & Tobago, Mauritius, Guyana Suriname, U.K., Sri Lanka, South Africa and previously in Fiji. The activities of these Centres include training in Indian Music/Dance/Indian languages/Yoga etc. The council also undertakes cultural activities around the world to fulfil its mandate of strengthening cultural relation and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Non-Resident Indian also benefit from such cultural interactions. Many persons of Indian Origin have been provided scholarships under the various Scholarship Schemes of the Council to study Indian arts and culture in Indian Universities/institutions.

The Council is maintaining chairs of Indian studies abroad and has deputed professors to teach Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Modern Indian History and Indian Civilization in Hungary, Mauritius, Russia, South Korea, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Romania, Thailand, France, Kyrgyzstan, Suriname and Uzbekistan.

The Mea had also constituted a High level Committee on Indian Diaspora to make recommendation on Promotion of India Culture and heritage for the benefit of Indian Diaspora abroad. The relevant portion of the recommendation of the High Level committee will be placed on the table of the house.