

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4165  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004  
IMPROVING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE US  
Singh Shri Sitaram

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy regarding improving cultural relations with the US;
- (b) if so, the main features of the aforesaid policy;
- (c) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has performed exceptionally well in America; and
- (d) if so, the details of the funds spent on the various programmes conducted there in this regard and the details of funds provided to the council for the said purpose?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Government of India has an external cultural relations policy aimed at depicting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding with foreign countries, including the USA.
- (b) The policy relies on a variety of cultural mechanisms, including the Indian Council for Cultural Relations as well as private initiatives, particularly centred around the Indian community in the US. Our Embassy and all Consulates in the US are active in promoting Indian culture.
- (c) The activities sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations have been received well in the USA.
- (d) During the year 2003-04, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations spent Rs. 65.63 lakhs on its US related activities. As these activities were part of the Council's overall programmes of action, no separate budgetary allocation was provided for this purpose.