

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3633
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
IMPROVING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a decline in cultural relations between Bulgaria and India during the last two decades;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the measures being initiated by the Government to expand the ties between Bulgaria and India in terms of culture;
- (d) whether the Government is proposing to improve cultural relations with various other countries as well; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this direction?

Answer

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

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Indo-Bulgarian cultural relations are under the institutional framework of bilateral Cultural Agreement signed in 1963. Under this agreement, the sixteenth Cultural Exchange Programme is currently under implementation.
- (d) & (e) Yes. This is done through institutional framework of bilateral Cultural Agreements and their implementation through Cultural Exchange Programmes tailored to the specific bilateral requirements and conditions.