

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6377
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
ORGANISING FESTIVALS IN CHINA AND FRANCE
Balram Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is going to organise cultural festivals in various countries including China and France this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard alongwith the duration of the festivals;
- (c) whether such festivals were held by ICCR in other countries during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent these festivals are likely to disseminate the Indian cultural values abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIS. M. KRISHNA)

(a): Yes. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is coordinating the Festival of India in China as well as the Festival of India in France called 'Namaste France', in 2010-11. These Festivals were formally inaugurated in Beijing and Paris on April 7th and April 14th 2010 respectively.

(b): The Festival of India in China would span the period from April to October, 2010, while the "Namaste France" Festival covers the period between April 2010 and – May 2011. The estimated expenditure on the Festival of India in China is Rs.4.5 crores, while approx. Rs.3.0 crores are likely to be spent on the 'Namaste France' Festival.

(c): In the last three years, ICCR has organized various Festivals including the India- Japan Friendship Year from December, 2006-December, 2007, Festival of India in Israel in 2007, Festival of India in Syria in October, 2008, Days of Indian Culture in Egypt in November, 2008, Festival of India in The Netherlands in 2008, Festival of India in Hungary in November/ December, 2008, and the Year of India in Russia from March, 2009 to December, 2009.

(d): Due to the emergence of India as a major economic and knowledge hub, interest in and curiosity about Indian Culture and civilization has been consistently increasing. These two Festivals project the rich cultural diversity of India. Indian Festivals abroad help create awareness about India, its culture, history, architecture, ethos and evolution, leading to a substantial increase in tourism, goodwill and even commercial interaction for the country. It is ICCR's endeavor to showcase diverse forms of Indian dance, music and theatre in the course of these two major Festivals and to organize talks and seminars on Indian themes. ICCR coordinates Indian Food and Film Festivals, Fashion Shows, Tourism Road Shows and exhibitions of paintings, photographs and Indian antiquities being organized by other Ministries / Departments.