

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the foreign countries with which Government has signed cultural agreements;
- (b) the countries with whom Government has organized cultural exchange programmes;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to develop cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;
- (d) whether huge amount is earmarked for Indian Mission abroad to promote cultural ties with other countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether irregularities have been noticed in the usage of such funds;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a), (b) & (c) In order to strengthen bilateral cultural relations, India has entered into Cultural Agreements (CA), Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP) and Memorandum of Understanding / Agreement (MOU) on Cultural Co-operation, with different countries. Cultural Agreements are generally agreements in perpetuity. CEPs / MOUs are signed for specific periods and include those that are under the aegis of Cultural Agreement. The list of countries with whom India has formal cultural relations is at Annexure.

For undertaking cultural exchanges the existence of a prior CA or CEP or MOU is not mandatory. However, efforts are made continuously to formalize such cultural relations. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) also promotes cultural ties with other countries, as does the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

(d) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.