

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2530
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
DISSEMINATION OF INDIAN ART AND CULTURE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give publicity to Indian art and culture in several countries;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;
- (c) whether NRIs are also being involved in this venture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether teams from India are being sent abroad to spread Indian art and culture; and
- (f) if so, the details of teams sent abroad during the last three years and the amount spent in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b): The Government attaches great importance to the promotion of Indian art and culture in other countries. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), constituted in 1950, has been fulfilling the mandate of enhancing India's cultural profile abroad for the last 60 years. Apart from the regular exchange of cultural troupes with other countries, the Council also carries out an entire range of activities aimed at promoting India's cultural profile abroad. These include: setting up of a large number of Chairs on Indian Studies in foreign Universities; establishment of Cultural Centres in other countries for the teaching of Indian languages, music, dance and yoga; organization of Indian cultural Festivals abroad; mounting of exhibitions of Indian works of art and photographs in other countries; organization of seminars and conferences on Indology and India-related cotemporary issues in collaboration with foreign Universities and other academic institutions; grant of around 3000 scholarships annually to foreign students to study in India; grant of Fellowships carrying a substantial allowance to established academicians and cultural personalities to enable them to stay in India from 3 –12 months to work on India-related projects; support for non-governmental organizations and cultural institutions working to promote Indian culture abroad; and a Distinguished Visitors Programme under which the Council sponsors and hosts the visits to India of well-known foreign cultural and academic personalities, and facilitates their interactions with relevant individuals and institutions in India; and outgoing visits by distinguished academicians and cultural personalities with a view to enhancing India's cultural profile in intellectual circles abroad.

(c) & (d): Non-resident Indians form an important link in our relationship with the countries of their residence, and they are regularly involved in ICCR's various cultural activities abroad. Government also actively seeks their support in promoting awareness about Indian culture abroad.

(e): Yes.

(f): The details of cultural troupes sent abroad in the last three years and the funds spent by the ICCR in this regard are given below:

Sl. No. Year No. of Groups Amount (In Rs.)

- | | | | |
|----|---------|-----|-------------|
| 1. | 2007-08 | 84 | 81303353/- |
| 2. | 2008-09 | 116 | 74514330/- |
| 3. | 2009-10 | 130 | 114902683/- |