

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:461
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011
PROMOTING INDIAN CULTURE
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a sign of growing interest in the study of Indian culture in European universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds spent for the promotion of Indian Culture in such universities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes, the interest in the study of Indian Culture in European Universities is growing rapidly which is evident in the increased number of scholars from those Universities visiting India under the Fellowship programme of ICCR to conduct research and studies on the cultural and intellectual heritage of India.

A large number of European Scholars participate in International Conferences on Indian Culture and related subjects. Such conferences are organized by both ICCR and other Institutions both in India and abroad. Council has organized 10 such Conferences during last one and a half years including an International Conference in Delhi on "Indian Culture in a Globalized World" where scholars from European Universities also participated. ICCR recently sponsored a Conference in Paris with participation of several prominent Indian and French scholars on liberal cultural traditions of India & France. Several European Scholars are also likely to participate in the Conferences scheduled for September – October, 2011, one in Leh on "Buddhism in Kashmir" and other in New Delhi on Tagore.

Council has also established approximately 40 Chairs in various European Universities on subjects related to India such as Indian languages, Indian History, Philosophy etc.

(c) The Council has incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs. 6.0 Crores for the promotion of Indian Culture in European Universities on the above activities.