

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
CULTURAL AGREEMENTS
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries with which India has entered into cultural agreements including the Commonwealth countries;
- (b) the details of the activities undertaken and the funds sanctioned and utilised thereunder during the last one year;
- (c) the strategic and other advantages gained by the country through such cultural agreements so far; and
- (d) the details of the countries with whom the Government plans to enter similar agreements in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.397 FOR 30th AUGUST, 2011

(a): The list showing names of countries with which India has entered into cultural agreements including the Commonwealth countries is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b): The details of activities undertaken by the Ministry of Culture through its various organizations, Ministry of Textiles (Office of the Deputy Commissioner-Handicrafts), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the funds sanctioned / utilised by the organizations thereunder during the last one year is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(c): Cultural Agreements facilitate cultural exchange and are integral part of diplomatic activities. These have played an important role in building bridges of understanding and developing better appreciation of India abroad. These have also helped in disseminating Indian culture in new territories and create awareness about Indian culture, tradition and heritage abroad.

(d): The Government is seized of the issue of the importance of soft power in the world scenario and is open to enter into Cultural Agreements with any country of the world.