

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1187

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

INDIAN DANCE FORMS

Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various Indian dance forms including Kathakali, Mohiniyattam and Bharatnatyam are popular in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken by the Government to propagate these dance forms;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish any off-campus centres of the Kalamandaram Deemed University of Art and Culture, Kerala in or outside the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are at Annexure.

(c) to (e) No sir. If, Kerala Kalamandalam is deemed to be university, it is required to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in accordance with the UGC (Institutions deemed to be Universities), Regulations, 2010.

Annexure

Annexure to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1187 to be answered on 29th November, 2011 regarding Indian Dance Forms.

The Government helps to propagate these dance forms abroad, through a number of measures such as-

i. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) annually sponsors various dance groups including Bharatnatyam, Kathakali and Mohiniyattam to participate in cultural events and festivals abroad. These include, 'Maximum India', 'Year of India in Canada', 'Festival of India in Brazil', '2nd Festival of Bharatnatyam in Malaysia'; 'Shared Histories Festival in South Africa'; 'Traditions Engaged' in USA; 'Solo International Performing Arts Event' in Indonesia etc. To promote these dance forms, the Council has also deputed Bharatnatyam dance teachers at various ICCR Cultural Centres abroad. ICCR also provides 11 scholarships to foreign students coming to India from different parts of the world to learn Bharatnatyam.

ii. Kalakshetra Foundation, which is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, organizes festivals abroad. Recently, a programme – 'Charishnu' produced by Kalakshetra Foundation was taken to various countries like China, Canada and Mauritius. This programme highlights various dance forms including Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, and Kathakali. Kalakshetra Foundation has also presented programmes in Bharatnatyam in Thailand, China, USA and Canada. Presently, 34 foreign students from countries like Sri Lanka, USA, Belarus, Ukraine, France, Brazil, Scotland, South Africa and Canada are studying dance and music in Kalakshetra.

iii. Ministry of Culture also organizes Festivals abroad, at which performances from these art forms are showcased. In 2009-10, the Ministry of Culture had sent performers of Kathakali to Kuwait and Kazakhstan and Bharatnatyam dancers to Indonesia and Malaysia under the Cultural Exchange Programme.