

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:418  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012  
CELEBRATIONS OF INDIAN FESTIVALS  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the celebrations of Indian festivals in foreign countries during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the names of festivals and places where celebrations are organized collectively;
- (c) whether Government provides them any help;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether foreign government also provides assistance, if so, the names of the countries?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes. While there has always been an interest shown by the local Indian communities in celebrating Indian festivals abroad, this interest has grown over the last few years.
- (b) The overseas Indian communities collectively celebrate many festivals including Diwali, Eid, Holi, Dussehra, Guru Nanak Birthday, Durga Puja, Onam, Janamasthmi, Thaipusam, Buddha Purnima, Pongal, Baisakhi, Maha Shivaratri, Ganesh Chaturthi etc., in conjunction with the local Indian Missions.
- (c) & (d) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations provide assistance through our Missions and Cultural Centres. The assistance provided varies from sponsoring cultural groups to perform in the festivities, providing grants to local organizations which organize such celebrations, and sending festive materials such as gulal, diyas, crackers, musical instruments etc.
- (e) Yes. In some countries such as Netherlands, Greece, Zambia, Australia, Ukraine, Tanzania, Singapore, Mauritius, Reunion Islands, Czechoslovakia and UK, the local governments also provide assistance in organizing these festivals.