

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5136
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
VIVEKANANDA FACULTY CHAIR IN INDIAN STUDIES
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has created a faculty chair in the name of Swami Vivekananda in Indian studies at the University of Chicago;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the endowment funds provided for the same;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be established/ made functional;
- (d) whether the Government supports similar faculty chairs at various Indian Universities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

a) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Culture has entered into an agreement with the University of Chicago, USA for establishing "The Indian Ministry of Culture Vivekananda Chair."

b)& (C): The Chair will commemorate the legacy of the spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda, who helped to raise awareness about Indian culture in the USA. The professorship includes a teaching commitment as well as an annual public lecture, thereby enriching the University of Chicago's programme for the study of the Indian subcontinent. The Chair would honour the life and legacy of Swami Vivekananda by promoting the fields of study most relevant to his teachings and philosophies such as human values, Indian philosophy and movement for social change to further the study of Indian culture in the United States, to advance the understanding of the history, culture and people of India, to create more knowledge about Indian Society and to instruct new generations of students. As per the Agreement an amount of US\$ 1.5 million will be provided to the University of Chicago by Ministry of Culture, Government of India on or before 1st July, 2012. Of this, one third of the amount i.e. US\$ 500,000 has already been transferred to India's Consul General in Chicago for onward transmission of funds to the University of Chicago. The Chair will be established after the full amount has been transferred to University of Chicago.

d) No, Madam.

e) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry.