

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
PUBLICITY OF INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give publicity to the Indian art and culture in other countries;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether non-resident Indians are proposed to be involved in this task;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether troupes of Indian artists are being sent abroad for promotion of Indian art and culture; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the details of funds spent in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government attaches great importance to the promotion of Indian art and culture in other countries, as this constitutes a major aspect of the projection of India's Soft Power abroad. ICCR, constituted in 1950, has been fulfilling the mandate of enhancing India's cultural profile abroad for the last 60 years. Apart from the exchange of cultural troupes with other countries on a regular basis, the Council also carries out an entire range of activities aimed at promoting India's cultural presence abroad. These include: setting up of a large number of Chairs on Indian Studies in foreign Universities; establishment of Cultural Centres in other countries for the teaching of Indian languages, music, dance and yoga; organization of Indian cultural Festivals abroad; mounting of exhibitions of Indian works of art and photographs in other countries; organization of seminars and conferences on Indology and India-related cotemporary issues in collaboration with foreign Universities and other academic institutions; grant of around 3000 scholarships every year to foreign students to study in India; grant of Fellowships carrying a substantial allowance to established academicians and cultural personalities to enable them to stay in India from 3-12 months to work on India-related projects; support for non-governmental organizations and cultural institutions working to promote Indian culture abroad; and a Distinguished Visitors Programme under which the Council sponsors and hosts the visits to India of well-known foreign cultural and academic personalities, and facilitates their interactions with relevant individuals and institutions in India; and outgoing visits by distinguished academicians and cultural personalities with a view to enhancing India's cultural profile in intellectual circles abroad.

(c) Yes.

(d) Non-resident Indians form an important link in our relationship with the countries of their residence, and we regularly involve them in our various cultural activities abroad. Government also actively seeks their support in promoting awareness about Indian culture abroad.

(e) Yes.

(f) The details of cultural troupes sent abroad in the last three years and the funds spent by the ICCR in this regard are placed at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3290 REGARDING "PUBLICITY OF INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE" FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2009

Details of Groups sponsored abroad and the Financial Expenditure thereon

Number of Groups sponsored abroad

S.No.	Year	Number of groups sponsored abroad
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1.	2006-2007	81
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2.	2007-2008	65
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3.	2008-2009	93
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4.	2009-2010	73 (1st April - 3rd December, 2009)
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Year-wise Summary of Expenditure incurred

Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure Incurred
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2006-07	Rs.8.00 crore	Rs.10.53 crore
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2007-08	Rs.7.00 crore	Rs.7.54 crore
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2008-09	Rs.7.45 crore	Rs.7.81 crore
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2009-10	Rs.16.00crore	Rs.6.30 crore Till date
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