

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2107**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

**CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIAN ORIGIN PERSONS**

†2107. Shri Arun Govil:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that more than three crore people of Indian origin living in America, Canada, Britain, France, Australia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, Gulf countries, Arab countries and Former Union of Soviet Russia along with certain people form second, third and fourth generation in these countries who are eager to maintain religious and cultural relations with India;
- (b) If so, the details of steps being taken by the Government to maintain religious, linguistic and cultural bondages with such countries and the people of Indian origin living there; and
- (c) the role likely to be played by the Indian Embassies in this task?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Culture signs Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) for disseminating Indian art and culture across the globe. The Cultural Exchange programmes promote India's soft power for developing and strengthening India's inter-cultural relations with other countries. The CEPs facilitate cultural exchanges with other countries in different areas like music and dance, theatre, museums & science museums, libraries, archives, protection and conservation of historic monuments and archaeological sites, literature, research and documentation, festival, among others.

Ministry of culture implements "Global Engagement Scheme" to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner. Under the Scheme 'Festival of India' (FoI) is organized abroad to promote people to people connect and bilateral

cultural contacts. The artists from diverse cultural fields perform in the 'Festival of India' abroad.

The Ministry of Culture also promotes Indian folk art, culture and music abroad through Grant-in-aid to Indo-foreign Friendship Cultural Societies in Foreign countries for organizing different cultural programmes and activities.

Ministry of External Affairs has a programme called Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) under which limited amount of funds are extended to Indian Missions/Posts abroad to encourage the Indian Diaspora overseas to organise cultural programmes with a view to connect them to their roots. PCTD was started in 2005 and under this initiative Ministry through provision of grants to Indian Missions/Posts abroad supports their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community; to preserve, maintain and showcase their Indian heritage and culture. The scheme aims to nourish and strengthen the cultural bonds between India and its Diaspora and to reinforce the cultural identity of the persons of Indian origin. The Ministry has provided funds to 66 Indian Missions/Posts across the globe under this scheme for Current Financial Year for engaging with the diaspora to showcase Indian culture, heritage and legacy.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an autonomous organization under Ministry of External Affairs, promotes Indian culture worldwide through its Cultural Centres and Missions/Posts abroad. Activities conducted by them include *inter-alia*, teaching of Yoga, Dance, Music (vocal and instrumental), Sanskrit and Hindi; organising/supporting Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops in different fields of Indian culture; supporting Chairs of Indian Studies in foreign universities; gifting of busts/statues of Mahatma Gandhi and other national icons, exchanging visual arts exhibitions, celebrating International Day of Yoga, Ayurveda Day and Indian festivals, promoting Indian films, hosting visitors under various Visitors Programmes (Academic/Distinguished/ Important/Gen. Next Democracy Network); and sponsoring scholarships to foreign students under different scholarship schemes. ICCR has also concluded MoUs with various State Governments to promote their culture abroad and to facilitate cultural exchanges with foreign countries. ICCR also hosts incoming foreign cultural troupes to enable Indians to discover various foreign countries.

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