

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:241  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002  
ACTIVITIES OF CULTURAL CENTRES  
RAMJI LAL SUMAN

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

- (a) the activities carried out by cultural centres set up in foreign countries during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;
- (b) the total amount of expenditure incurred on pay, allowances, facilities and activities of these centres during the said period; and
- (c) the total number of staff in these centres till March, 2002, country-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.241 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2002 REGARDING 'ACTIVITIES OF CULTURAL CENTRES'

1. The primary objective of the Cultural Centres set up in foreign countries is to promote a greater awareness of India's composite cultural heritage abroad. These Centres are engaged in a wide range of activities that showcase and promote Indian culture and traditions. These activities include organisation of classes in performing arts and yoga, dance and music concerts, lectures, seminars and film shows among others. Activities in brief carried out by each Centre during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are at Annexure-I.

2. Rupees 12.67 crores and Rupees 12.62 crores were incurred by the Centres on pay and allowances, facilities and activities during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. Details thereof are at Annexure-II and Annexure-III.

3. As of March 2002, India-based and 74 local staff were working in the Cultural Centres. Country-wise details thereof are at Annexure-IV.

Annexure-I

**ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF OF THE INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRES ABROAD DURING 2000-2001 AND 2001-2002**

Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana : Regular classes in Kathak, Tabla and Yoga were conducted. Sanskrit classes were also held. Besides this, the Centre formed a local cultural group which has been promoting Indian culture in different places in Guyana and the neighbouring countries. A noteworthy feature was the Yoga classes conducted in Georgetown prison. Special programmes were produced for the local Television Channel. Books and musical instruments were presented to schools, temples and other institutions.

Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname : Regular classes in Kathak, Hindustani Vocal, Tabla, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. The Centre has also started short term courses in various additional disciplines such as Information Technology and Fashion Designing. Cultural programmes in a number of cities in Suriname were also organised.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago : Regular classes in Kathak, Hindustani Vocal, Tabla and Hindi were conducted. Cultural programmes organised by the Centre were telecast live on the Television and Radio. The Centre has also started language classes in Temples and Schools. The concept of 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' was inculcated among the students. A number of lectures on subjects of contemporary relevance were also organised.

Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia : Regular classes in Kathak, Tabla, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. A Cultural Group has been formed with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Council Centre's teachers, students and local artistes to perform outside Jakarta. Programmes by this group have been organised at Bali, Medan and other cities successfully on many occasions. The Centre presented a joint production along with local artistes called 'Sangam' based on a well known episode from Maharashtra which reflects the different styles of Indonesian and Indian dance forms.

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius : The Centre organised regular activities to promote Indian culture in the form of cultural programmes by local talents, teachers and students of the centre and artistes from India. The Centre offered its premises for the activities of a number of Indo-Mauritian cultural organisations. The Centre has been conducting one year certificate, two years diploma and two years advanced diploma courses in three disciplines of Kathak, Carnatic Vocal Music and Tabla. All these courses have well established syllabus and examination schemes. Successful candidates are awarded certificates and diplomas on the

basis of their performance. Presently, around 750 students are studying in these courses.

Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia : Five Centres for promoting the activities of Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre were established at Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Ufa, Vladivostok and Yakutia with the help of local authorities. The Centre supported five Chairs at different Institutes of the Russian Federation, which made valuable policy inputs on foreign relations and other issues. The Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow has also formed cultural groups with the help of teachers and students. These groups have been presenting cultural programmes not only in Moscow but other cities as well. A Hindi-Russian dictionary and a Hindi-Russian conversation guide have been developed by the Centre to assist scholars in their work.

Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan : The Centre has organised collaborative programmes with 30 local institutions including museums, universities, institutes, schools, local Government agencies, writers union and other institutions of cultural and educational importance. The Centre also organised a series of lectures of Indian and contemporary Indian History and other subjects at Al-Frabi University, Kainar University, Abai University, Academy of Sciences and Institute of Oriental Studies. In collaboration with local universities it has also set up small units of Indian Study Centres imparting training in Indian performing arts and languages. The establishment of these Study Centres have been extremely successful.

Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan : Regular classes in Kathak and Tabla were conducted. The Centre closely interacted with all institutions and organised joint cultural programmes, seminars and symposia besides conducting its own dance and yoga classes. The Centre has reactivated the Indo-Uzbek friendship society and organised refresher courses for Hindi teachers and intensive short-term courses in Hindi and Indian Studies. All cultural events are given wide coverage both in print and electronic media in Uzbekistan.

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka : Regular classes were held in eight disciplines including Hindi, Yoga, Bharatanatyam, Hindustani and Carnatic Vocal Music, Violin, Sitar and Tabla. These classes were immensely popular among all age groups. As many as 600 students were enrolled. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised by the Centre. Indian documentaries were telecast on local Television Channels. The Centre's library of 5000 books, video cassettes, CD Roms and audio-video CDs were used extensively by the scholars for their research work.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt : Regular classes in Yoga, Hindi and Urdu were conducted. Annual Glimpses of India Art Competition were organised by the Centre for Egyptian children. Cultural Weeks, Indian Days and cultural events were organised with local talent visiting artistes. Indian films were regularly screened in 'film weeks'. Hindi programmes were also relayed on Cairo Radio. A number of lectures on subjects of contemporary relevance were also organised.

The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany : Regular classes in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Violin, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised. It also promoted exchange of views through seminars and talks on a wide range of subjects. A Book Fair with India as focus country was also organised.

Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa : The Centre has developed firm relations with the local Indian community and has targeted certain Black townships with the aim of strengthening relations with the majority community in South Africa. Centre has organised several cultural programmes in certain townships of Johannesburg and other parts of South Africa which has received overwhelming response. Since its inception, the Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg has been popularising Indian culture by means of live cultural performances and exhibitions. Classes in Kathak Dance and Indian Instrumental Music and Yoga were conducted.

Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa : Classes in dance and music were conducted regularly at the Centre. The Centre presented 1050 books in Hindi, Urdu and English to organisations, schools and colleges. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised by the Centre. The Centre has been promoting exchange of views through seminars and talks on a wide range of subjects.

The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom : 311 programmes were organised during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 which included book launches, lectures, panel discussions, seminars, workshops, exhibition of paintings, photographs, crafts and skills, multimedia and sculpture, screening of films, music and dance programmes. The Centre had provided its art gallery and auditorium to local organisations interested in promoting Indian culture.

#### Annexure-II

#### TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON PAY, ALLOWANCES, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRES DURING 2001.

Name of the Centre	Pay and Allowances (Establishment Charges, medical, air fares etc.)	Facilities	Activities	Total Expenditure
Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia	87,41,369	65,81,332	15,38,299	1,68,61,000
Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture,	43,52,129	50,34,084	11,97,787	1,05,84,000

Cairo, Egypt

Indira Gandhi Centre 52,89,816 43,32,436 10,37,436 1,06,60,000  
for Indian Culture,  
Port Louis, Mauritius

Indian Culture Centre, 35,48,217 48,48,035 5,26,748 89,23,000  
Georgetown, Guyana

Indian Cultural Centre, 49,40,528 33,90,742 2,12,730 85,44,000  
Paramaribo, S  
uriname

Jawaharlal Nehru 43,10,823 48,11,892 1,36,285 92,59,000  
Indian Cultural Centre,  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Mahatma Gandhi 57,18,647 61,24,715 1,06,638 1,19,50,000  
Institute for Cultural  
Cooperation, Port of  
Spain, Trinidad and  
Tobago

The Nehru Centre, 58,06,022 23,70,286 32,21,692 1,13,98,000  
London, United  
Kingdom

The Tagore Centre, 69,98,423 59,82,091 3,90,486 1,33,71,000  
Berlin, Germany

Indian Culture Centre, 26,27,574 22,74,627 4,20,799 53,23,000  
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Indian Cultural Centre, 53,48,529 23,56,160 1,79,311 78,84,000  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Indian Cultural Centre, 7,74,620 10,89,479 21,12,901 39,77,000  
Johannesburg, South  
Africa

Indian Cultural Centre, 1,18,146 22,75,013 9,87,841 33,81,000  
Durban, South Africa

Indian Cultural Centre, 3,59,302 38,55,029 4,11,669 46,26,000  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Grand Total 5,89,34,145 5,53,25,921 1,24,80,934 12,67,41,000

Annexure-III

TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON PAY, ALLOWANCES, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRES  
DURING 2001-2002.

Name of the Centre	Pay and Allowances (Establishment Charges, medical, air fares etc.)	Facilities	Activities	Total
Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia	77,50,318	73,64,583	23,10,375	1,74,25,276
Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt	40,67,929	42,10,615	7,03,175	89,81,719
Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius	55,48,316	42,48,316	10,48,248	1,08,20,496
Indian Culture Centre, Georgetown, Guyana	36,59,313	55,32,816	5,29,070	97,21,199
Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname	45,80,822	30,79,335	2,97,517	79,57,674
Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia	3,401,067	3,824,449	161,066	7,386,582
Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	69,75,834	42,71,970	1,74,349	1,14,22,153
The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom	62,99,287	51,98,012	38,93,190	1,53,90,489
The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany	72,23,410	31,79,422	4,94,021	1,08,96,853
Indian Culture Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan	30,14,157	27,19,850	5,72,764	63,06,771
Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	37,35,021	21,04,763	2,54,488	60,94,272
Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa	8,04,511	9,00,340	22,73,219	39,78,070
Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa	10,52,013	19,06,782	19,13,212	48,72,007

Indian Cultural Centre, 3,41,540 41,89,655 4,38,535 49,69,730  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Grand Total 5,84,53,538 5,27,06,524 1,50,63,229 12,62,23,291

Annexure-IV

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STAFF WORKING IN EACH CULTURAL CENTRE AS OF MARCH, 2002

Name of the Centre Staff Strength

Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia India-based staff-4  
Local Staff-6

Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt India-based staff-2  
Local Staff-4

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius India-based staff-5  
Local Staff-5

Indian Culture Centre, Georgetown, Guyana India-based staff-3  
Local Staff-7

Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname India-based staff-2  
Local Staff-9

Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia India-based staff-4  
Local Staff-7

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago India-based staff-4  
Local Staff-5

The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom India-based staff-2  
Local Staff-4

The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany India-based staff-1  
Local Staff-5

Indian Culture Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan India-based staff-1  
Local Staff-5

Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan India-based staff-2  
Local Staff-5

Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa India-based Acting Director borne on  
MEA Strength Local Staff-3

Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa India-based Acting Director borne on  
MEA Strength Local Staff-4

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka India-based Acting Director borne on  
MEA Strength Local Staff-5