

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4117
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
OPENING CULTURAL CENTRES ABROAD
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of proposals for opening cultural centres abroad are under the consideration of the Government for the last several years,
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking a decision in the matter; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to have a kind of regional balance while deciding to open cultural centres abroad particularly in South-East Asia, Latin America and in countries where a sizeable Indian community resides?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) ICCR has received proposals for opening of Cultural Centres at Washington, Tokyo, Beijing, Kathmandu, Bangkok, Kabul, Tehran and Warsaw.
- (b) Indian Cultural Centre at Tokyo has become operational since the first week of December, 2005. The other proposals are under process.
- (c) The Council has established Indian Cultural Centres in South-East Asia at Jakarta, Bali and Kuala Lumpur; in Latin American regions in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The Council has also established Cultural Centres at Mauritius and Fiji where there is a sizable Indian community.