

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2306
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRES ABROAD
Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any review of the activities of the Indian Cultural Centres functioning abroad during the last six months;
- (b) if so, the details of the activities reviewed and the outcome thereof ; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) Activities undertaken by Indian Cultural Centres abroad include holding classes in Indian dance and music, Hindi and yoga, arranging performances by visiting groups from India, facilitating admission of foreign students into Indian universities under ICCR's scholarship schemes, arranging seminars and conferences, reaching out to creative centres in the country where they are located, and running a regular programme of events to facilitate the promotion and projection of Indian culture in its various facets. The activities of the Centres are monitored on a regular basis through an institutionalised system of monthly reporting by these Centres. These reports are carefully scrutinised at the Council. The Centres function as an integral part of Indian Missions abroad and their activities are also continuously monitored by the Head of Mission in the country concerned.

(c) The principal objective of this ongoing process of monitoring and review is to seek a continuous up-gradation in the quality, content and reach of the activities of the Cultural Centres.