

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2617

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

†2617.

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is expanding cultural diplomacy around the World through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Centres via various Indian cultural activities, cultural heritage and in recent landscape through ancient yoga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of the countries where these centres are running; and

(d) the details of the employees working in these centres and the process of their recruitment?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. MEENAKSHI LEKHI)

**(a)&(b) The Government of India through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), has been expanding cultural diplomacy around the world vide its activities in various fields including interalia, teaching of Yoga, Dance, Music and Hindi; sponsoring visits of performing art groups; organizing Indian festivals; hosting foreign cultural groups; organizing / supporting conferences /seminars /workshops in various fields, promotion of Yoga & Ayurveda including celebration of International Day of Yoga; supporting Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities; offering scholarships to foreign students to study in India; hosting eminent academicians/distinguished visitors in India; gifting of busts/statues of Mahatma Gandhi and other national heroes; exchanging visual art exhibitions.**

**(c) ICCR runs 37 Indian Cultural Centres located at** Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Suriname), Port Louis (Mauritius), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russia), Berlin (Germany), Cairo (Egypt), London (United Kingdom), Durban (South Africa), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), NurSultan (Kazakhstan), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Bali (Indonesia), Suva (Fiji), Kathmandu 1 (Nepal), **Kabul (Afghanistan)**, Beijing (China), Bangkok (Thailand), Tokyo (Japan), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Thimphu (Bhutan), Mexico City (Mexico), Budapest (Hungary), Prague (Czech Republic), Yangon (Myanmar), Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Male (Maldives), Seoul (South Korea), The Hague (Netherlands), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Tehran (Iran), Sydney (Australia), Hanoi (Vietnam) and Tel Aviv (Israel).

**ICCR also extends support to the Indian Cultural Centre in Valladolid (Spain) as per the MoU signed in December 2018.**

**(d) A total of 110 teachers are deployed in Indian Mission/Post/ICCs for teaching Indian Dance, Music, Hindi and Yoga. Their selection is done through open advertisement. Support staff for administration, accounts & housekeeping are hired locally.**