

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018

WORK DONE THROUGH ICCR

†1154. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to make India a cultural super power;
- (b) the details of works done through Indian Council for Cultural Research (ICCR) in this regard;
- (c) the details of expenditure incurred and earning of ICCR during each year of the last four years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government is taking/proposes to take concrete steps on the basis of report submitted to her Ministry by the Parliamentary committee and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether in order to strengthen foreign diplomacy, the Government proposes to provide more financial support to the ICCR to promote cultural campaign; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Govt. of India is taking many steps to promote culture of India. This work is being done by several Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as autonomous bodies working under them. As an autonomous body under Ministry of External Affairs, work undertaken by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) includes establishing Indian Cultural Centres abroad, sponsoring visits of performing art groups, hosting cultural groups from abroad and organizing their performances in various cities of India, organizing/ supporting conferences/ seminars/ workshops in various fields including Yoga & Ayurveda, establishing Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities, offering scholarships to students to study in India, supporting visits of eminent academicians/ dignitaries to India, promotion of Hindi and other Indian languages including publication of Gagananchal a bi-monthly Hindi journal, commissioning of busts/ statues of Indian Leaders and visual art exhibitions, administering various awards, maintaining of collection of over 10,000 rare books/ manuscripts donated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, organizing International Day of Yoga, and organizing festivals/ India Week etc.

(c) The details of earning and expenditure incurred by ICCR during the last 4 years and the current year are as following:

(Rs. in Crores)

Financial Year	Expenditure	Earning
2014-15	157.02	3.50
2015-16	140.40	3.94
2016-17	186.30	4.64
2017-18	189.22	4.41
2018-19	80.47 (up to 10 July 18)	-----

(d) Yes. Action Taken Report has been laid on the table of the House on 04 April 2018.

(e) & (f) Yes. Government has been increasing the grant given to ICCR. There was a significant increase from Rs. 185.80 crores in 2016-17 to Rs. 233.14 crores in 2017-18 and for Current Financial Year, the grant is Rs. 255 crores.
