

नागरिक भी नहीं हैं और वहां के नागरिक भी नहीं हैं और इस तरह से उन्हें किसी देश की नागरिकता प्राप्त नहीं है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह के भारतीय, जो स्टेट-लेस अवस्था में हैं, उनकी संख्या कितनी है और उनकी सुरक्षा तथा भलाई के लिये सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I have not got the figures about the persons whose status is 'Stateless' and who are of Indian origin in the various countries. I do not have any information about it. The persons of Indian origin who are Stateless in any country are primarily the responsibility of the country of residence because they are physically present in another country and irrespective of their status, it is the responsibility of that Government to ensure their safety and to permit them to function in accordance with the laws of that country. When any difficulty arises and they find it difficult to stay on, then a different situation arises as it did arise in Uganda. And the United Nations Organisation generally steps in to help the Stateless persons of whatever origin they may be, and they stepped in Uganda and they took charge of persons of Asian origin whose status was Stateless.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

*243. **DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the chief objects for which the Indian Council of Cultural Relations was set up, was to promote cultural contacts with foreign countries ;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken so far by the Council for the fulfilment of this object ;

(c) whether the Council has so far sponsored any cultural delegations to bring home the excellence of the Indian classical music and dance to any foreign countries ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of its objectives, the ICCR has undertaken a large variety of activities such as establishment of Chairs of Indian

Studies abroad ; inviting scholars, artists and leaders of opinion from other countries to visit India and sending Indian scholars, artists and specialists in various fields to visit other countries on goodwill-cum-lecture tours ; sending of exhibitions of Indian art, books and handicrafts ; organisation of international conferences and Seminars ; publication of books and journals in foreign languages with a view to making the various aspects of Indian life and culture better known abroad ; award of research grants and scholarships to foreign scholars for further studies and training in different aspects of Indian culture ; opening of Indian Cultural Centres abroad etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

During the last three years the ICCR sent out the following cultural delegations :

1969-70

A delegation including Begum Akhtar (vocalist), Pt. Ram Narain (Sarangi), Kumari Damayanti Joshi (Kathak) and Shrimati Sonal Mansingh (Bharat Natyam) to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Shrimati Rani Karna (Kathak), Shrimati Sanjukta Panigrahi (Odissi) to Sikkim.

Sachin Shankar's Ballet troupe to Nepal.

A delegation including Shri Debatra Chaudhury (Sitarist) and his accompanists to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Acharya K. C. D. Brahaspati (Musicologist), Smt. Sulochana Yajurvedi (Vocalist), Shri Sisirkana Dharchoudhury (Violinist) and Shrimati Meena Kapur (Vocalist) to Nepal.

A delegation including Shri Sunil Mukherjee (Sarod) and Shri Nirmalendu Choudhury and party (folk singers) to Sikkim.

A delegation including Kumari Yamini Krishnamurti (Bharat Natyam) and party to Nepal.

1970-71

A delegation including Kumari Uma

Sharma (Kathak) and the Bharatiya Kala Kendra troupe to Mauritius.

A 15-member delegation of the Institute of Choreography, New Delhi to Afghanistan.

Ustad Vilayat Khan (Sitar) to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Gogia Pasha (Magician) and Smt. Sandhya Mukherjee (Vocalist) to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai (Bharat Natyam) and Smt. Jyotsna Bhole (Vocal) to Nepal.

A delegation including Kumari Bharati Gupta (Kathak) to Sikkim.

A six member Bharatiya Natya Sangh Puppeteers troupe to Bhutan.

A sixteen member Kumaon Troupe of folk dancers to Sikkim.

1971-72

A delegation including Smt. Madhuri Mattoo (Vocal), Smt. Mandakini Malviya (Kathak) and Shri Yakub Ali Khan (Sarod) to Nepal.

A delegation including Smt. M. K. Saroja (Bharat Natyam) and Shri Nikhil Banerji (Sitar) to Nepal.

The Indian Revival Dance Troupe led by Shri Jog Sunder to Bhutan.

A ten member troupe of the Kuchipudi Dance Academy of Madras led by the Director and Dance Guru Shri Chenna Satyam to Sikkim.

A Puppeteer and Folk Dance Troupe of the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal to Sikkim.

The Triveni Kala Sangam Manipuri Dance Troupe to Afghanistan.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The statement that has been placed before us lists 21 visits of cultural delegations to other countries during the last three years. So, may I know on what basis are the countries to be visited are selected? Because, here I find that out of the 21, six delegations went to Afghanistan, six to Sikkim, six to Nepal and two to Bhutan. They are our very close neighbours and I wish and we all want that we should have very good relations with them. But there are other countries and this is a very wide world

and we have so many important countries. Does this list in any way indicate the evaluation we make of the importance of having good cultural relations with the various countries of the world because there are so many countries which we would like to be included in the list?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I accept the validity of the point mentioned by the honourable Member. But we have made a good beginning and he will readily agree, and in fact he has already done so, that our first thought should go to our immediate neighbours Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Afghanistan and now Bangla Desh and, if we have friendly relations, even Pakistan. These are countries in our region. There are cultural expectations in several other countries which are our friends and particularly those countries where persons of Indian origin are settled, and it is our desire to strengthen this work and to extend the activities in these regions also, as suggested by the honourable Member.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I would like to know further whether it is at our initiative that such delegations are sponsored or whether it is in response to invitations from other countries. Because, if it is our sponsoring that is responsible for it, I would certainly desire that some of the countries with which we do not have good enough relations but we wish to have improved relations, should be included in the list. Why are efforts not made to include them in the list of these countries? And as regards the financial aspect of it, what do we spend? Is limitation of the Budget the problem? What have we spent over these delegations?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would say in the first instance that both these situations arise. Certain delegations have gone in response to the desire of the host country. In several other countries we have ourselves sponsored these visits. And I also accept that we should send these delegations even to countries where our present relations may not be very good or very close, but still we would like to extend cultural relations. Culture should cut across the state of political relationship at a given time. And it is precisely to achieve that objective that all these programmes have been undertaken. The hon. Member has raised the question of finance. I cannot complain, but it is a fact that the financial limit is also there. We have a certain budget which has been progressively increased and I hope to persuade the Finance

Minister to give us more money so that we can extend the cultural activities more.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : In view of the fact that cultural teams are only sent to Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Afghanistan and Mauritius, may I know from the Minister what prevents the Council from sending delegations to other countries? May I also know the number of delegations received from foreign countries?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I thought I had answered this in a slightly different way.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : My second question was not answered. What is the number of delegations received by us from foreign countries?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I will require separate notice for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been answered now.

IMPORT OF STEEL

*244. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : †
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRI K. C. PANDA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of various types of steel imported during the last three years, yearwise ; and

(b) whether there has been any increase in the foreign exchange expenditure on the import of steel if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR-MANGALAM) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The value of iron and steel imports in 1971-72 increased to about Rs. 245 crores, as compared to Rs. 149 crores in 1970-71 and Rs. 83 crores in 1969-70.

STATEMENT

Imports of Iron and Steel

A. (Quantity in tonnes)

		1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Pig Iron/Ferro Alloys	..	2,399	1,609	8,140
Cast Iron	..	1,454	1,626	1,240
Mild Steel	..	3,45,282	5,51,132	1,086,399
High Carbon Steel	..	31,833	71,454	173,803
Alloy Steel	..	28,286	64,824	87,736
Steel Casting & Forgings	..	7,231	8,015	6,394
Iron & Steel Scrap	..	6,599	7,428	18,427
TOTAL	..	4,23,087	7,06,088	1,382,139

B. (Value in Rs. lakhs)

Pig Iron/Ferro Alloys	..	1.23	2.00	2.98
Cast Iron	..	80	72	78
Mild Steel	..	58.10	1,00.10	1,68.30
High Carbon Steel	..	5.88	15.45	33.03
Alloy Steel	..	12.16	25.81	33.99
Steel Casting & Forgings	..	3.93	4.34	3.96
Iron & Steel Scrap	..	91	76	1.75
TOTAL	..	83.01	1,49.18	2,44.79

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.