

different thing. Actually there their activities related to asking for a share in paddy. May I know, Sir, since when the Bombay port has begun to grow paddy and since when the port and dock workers have become sharecroppers? These two things have to be clarified before the hon'ble Minister answers this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very interesting. Next question.

*69. [The questioner (Shri Y. Adinarayana Reddy) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 475-476 infra.]

CULTURAL DELEGATIONS SENT ABROAD

*70. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cultural delegations sent abroad during the year 1967-68 and the names of the countries they visited;

(b) the total foreign exchange involved in the trips during the year; and

(c) the benefits derived by the countries where the delegations were sent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) 16; France, Canada, USSR, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, U.S.A., Yugoslavia, Hungary, Iran, U.K., Poland, Ivory Coast, West Germany and G.D.R.

(b) Rs. 15,004-25.

(c) Through the visit abroad of performing troupes artistes and cultural lecturers the cultural heritage of India has been presented in its true perspective in various countries, which has been highly appreciated. A *aste for Indian music and dance forms has been inculcated in foreign count-

the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. P. Khaitan.

ries through the performances of these artistes. The delegations have helped to promote mutual goodwill and understanding with other countries.

श्री अर० पी० खैतान : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलावेंगे कि यह जो फेदरिस्त बी गई है उनमें किस प्रकार के लोग हैं और कौन कौन से लोग हैं ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : इसकी सूची बहुत लम्बी है । जैसे मैंने बतलाया कि पिछले वर्ष हमने 16 पार्टियों भेजीं और उस में काफी लोग हैं । साधारणतः जब इनका चयन किया जाता है तो प्रति वर्ष विदेश मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर किया जाता है । साथ ही जो संबंधित एकाडमीज है उनके साथ भी मिलकर इनका चयन किया जाता है हमें विदेशी दूतावास भी खबर भेजते हैं कि किस प्रकार के ट्रूप्स बाहर भेजने चाहियें और उसी के मुताबिक हम लोगों को बाहर भेजते हैं ।

डा० भाई भट्टाचौर : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो सांस्कृतिक डेलीगेशन भेजे जाते हैं उनके चुनाव में किस प्रकार की कसौटियां बरती जाती हैं । यह धारणा आम जनता में पाई जाती है कि इन डेलीगेशनों के चुनाव में कई प्रकार का व्यक्तिगत संबंध, लिहाज किसी के विरोध में या किसी के पक्ष में बरता जाता है । तो इस प्रकार की जो भावना बन रही है उसको दूर करने के लिए सरकार से कोई आश्वासन मिल सकता है ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : जैसा मैंने पहले उत्तर में बतलाया कि जब हम इस पर निर्णय करते तो इसके लिए प्रति वर्ष विदेश मंत्रालय से मिलकर पूरे वर्ष का कार्यक्रम बनाते हैं । दूसरी बात यह है कि हमें हमारे विदेशी दूतावास यह बतलाते हैं कि किस देश

में किस प्रकार के ट्रूप्स वे चाहते हैं। हमने ऐसा कोई भी आदमी या किसी भी व्यक्ति विशेष को विदेश नहीं भेजा इन टीमों में, जो अपने क्षेत्र में विशेषज्ञ न हों। इसलिए ऐसी धारणा बनाना, मैं समझता हूँ देश के हित में नहीं होगा। जो ट्रूप्स वहाँ विदेशों में गये, वे नृत्य या संगीत के तथा ज्ञान पर-फार्मिंग आर्टिस्ट थे। इन संबंध में हम एक-दूसरे और विशेषज्ञों से भी राय लेते हैं। इसलिए ऐसी धारणा इस संबंध में नहीं होनी चाहिये कि किसी व्यक्ति विशेष के साथ पक्षपात किया गया हो।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, there are widespread allegations that favouritism is shown in the selection of members of these cultural delegations. In view of this, I would like to know what the criteria are for selecting the participants in these cultural delegations and to alleviate the fear in the minds of the public that favouritism might be shown in the selection of the (participants, particularly from the bureaucracy of the Education Ministry.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I categorically deny any such idea that there is favouritism in the selection. I would like the hon. Member to go through the list of persons who have been sent. It is a very fair offer. We have sent performing teams and we have sent non-performing teams under various cultural agreements. Let the hon. Member see the list—it is all open I will put it on the Table—and say whether any of them is not qualified in the particular field in which he has been sent, and whether the selection is justified or not. What else can I say? It is absolutely wrong.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I know from the Government whether, when they send cultural delegations to foreign countries, they pay attention ; to the other side of culture also? j

That is, when they send cultural delegations, they are confined to music and dance. The hon. Minister spoke of Indian heritage. Is there no other side of Indian heritage which requires to be propagated abroad? For example, there are our scholars; philosophers and great writers. They should also go to foreign countries so that the real heritage of India, apart from music and dance, would be presented.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I -agree with the hon. Member. As a matter of fact, we do not send only troupes of dance and arts. We send performing as well as non-performing troupes. And the scope of the team that is sent, as the hon. Member may know, is very wide. It is exchange of delegations of artistes, students and scholars, exchange of publications, exhibitions in art objects deputation of Indian teachers for services abroad, participation in international conferences, bilateral agreements and so on. So, Sir, apart from sending troupes of dance and music, there is exchange c-f scholars, students and all these things.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the role of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations is in the selection of these cultural delegations and whether the great Secretary of I.C.C.R. is the person who chooses these delegations.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, as had been answered before also, the I.C.C.R. is an autonomous body. They decide from time to time. It is the Executive Committee or the Governing Body of that institution that takes decisions. So I would not say that it is the Secretary personally who decides, but it is the Governing body which decides. In this aspect, we are not concerned. From the Ministry we sponsor the delegations.