

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) There have been reports that some artifacts at the National Museum in Male, Maldives, belonging to the pre-Islamic era in Maldives, were damaged or destroyed in incidents of violence in February 2012. The matter was taken up by the External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Minister of Maldives during latter's visit to India on 3 April 2012. Earlier, during his visit to Maldives on 15 & 16 February 2012, the Foreign Secretary had also taken up the matter with the President of Maldives and conveyed our concerns. The President of Maldives had indicated that the damage and destruction to the artifacts in the National Museum would be inquired into.

Purchase of Gifts By Ministry

2982. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media reports about purchase of substandard gifts for presenting it to foreign dignitaries by the President, Prime Minister and other high-ranking officials, at inflated rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any enquiry into the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) It came to the notice of the Ministry in May 2011 that some of the gifts being procured by the Protocol Division of the Ministry were not of the desired quality and specification.

(c) and (d) A preliminary inquiry was conducted into the matter by the Ministry which could not establish *prima facie* any involvement or complicity of officials of the Ministry. A detailed investigation into the matter has thereafter been entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The enquiry by CBI is ongoing.

Programmes Conducted by ICCR

2983. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the programmes conducted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Indian culture abroad;

- (b) the details of funds spent over such programmes for last three years;
- (c) the number of centres ICCR is having abroad, country-wise;
- (d) whether Government plans to establish more centres abroad; and
- (e) if so, the number of such centres that are being planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) arranged the visit of 473 cultural groups to other countries during the last three financial years as per the details given below:

Year	No. of Groups	Amount spent.
2009-10	138	Rs. 9.50 Crores
2010-11	165	Rs. 12.66 Crores
2011-12	170	Rs.17.28 Crores

(c) ICCR is maintaining 35 Indian Cultural Centres and 2 Sub-Centres abroad and details are given in the statement. (*See below*)

(d) and (e) ICCR is in the process to open 8 new cultural Centres at Washington, Paris, Buenos Aires, Lagos, Toronto, Sydney, Hanoi and Singapore

Statement

List of Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

1. The Nehru Centre
London (U.K.).
2. The Tagore Centre
Berlin, Germany.
3. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre
Moscow, Russia.
4. Indian Cultural Centre
Astana, Kazakhstan.
5. Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture
Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
6. Indian Cultural Centre
Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

7. Indian Cultural Centre
Kabul, Afganistan.
 8. Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 9. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre
Jakarta, Indonesia.
 10. Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture
Port Louis, Mauritius.
 11. Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture
Cairo, Egypt.
 12. Indian Cultural Centre
Durban, South Africa.
 13. Indian Cultural Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa.
 14. Indian Cultural Centre
Georgetown, Guyana.
 15. Mahatma Gandhi Institute For Cultural Cooperation
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
 16. Indian Cultural Centre
Paramaribo, Suriname.
 17. Indian Cultural Centre
Suva, Fiji.
 18. Indian Cultural Centre
Beijing, China.
 19. Indian Cultural Wing
Kathmandu, Nepal.
 20. Indian Cultural Centre
Bangkok, Thailand
 21. Indian Cultural Centre
Abu Dhabi, Dubai.
 22. Indian Cultural Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
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23. Indian Cultural Centre
Tokyo, Japan
24. Indian Cultural Centre
Mexico.
25. Indian Cultural Centre
Thimphu, Bhutan.
26. Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
Dhaka, Bangladesh.
27. Indian Cultural Centre
Yangon, Myanmar.
28. Indian Cultural Centre
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
29. Indian Cultural Centre
Seoul, Korea.
30. Indian Cultural Centre
Budapest, Hungary.
31. Indian Cultural Centre
Prague, Czech Republic
32. Indian Cultural Centre
Male, Maldives.
33. Indian Cultural Centre
Sao Paulo, Brazil.
34. Indian Cultural Centre
Riyadh.
35. Indian Cultural Centre
The Hague, Netherlands.

Sub-Centres

1. Sub-Cultural Centre
Lautoka, Fiji.
 2. Sub-Cultural Centre
Bali, Indonesia.
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