

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-862**  
ANSWERED ON- 09/02/2023

**CULTURAL EXCHANGES FOR EXPANDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

862. SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the different ways in which cultural exchanges take place, as they are a very important part of maintaining and expanding diplomatic relations; and

(b) the number of troupes, musicians, cinema personalities, etc., which have been sent abroad as part of the cultural exchange dialogue since 2018, with particular reference to such groups from Assam?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. MEENAKSHI LEKHI)

(a) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) promotes Indian culture worldwide through its Cultural Centres and Missions/Posts abroad. Activities conducted by them include inter-alia, teaching of Yoga, Dance, Music and Hindi, organising/supporting conferences/seminars/ workshops in different fields of Indian culture; supporting Chairs of Indian Studies in the foreign universities; gifting of busts/statues of Mahatma Gandhi and other national heroes; exchanging visual art exhibitions; and celebration of International Day of Yoga at iconic centres abroad.

(b) ICCR has sent 6 Cultural troupes/musicians abroad from Assam since 2018.

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