

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME – CULTURAL
TROUPES/INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS – SELECTION (21/07/09)**

(No. B/936) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture & Human Resources whether, in regard to the cultural exchange programme between his Ministry and the foreign countries, he will state the mechanism that has been set up for the selection of troupes or individuals.

Reply: There is no specific mechanism for selection of cultural troupes or individual artists under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

The selection of cultural troupes or individual artists to give performances in foreign countries is made by my Ministry in consultation with the respective missions in Mauritius and

our missions overseas. The selection is based on the following criteria –

- (i) nature of festivals/events;
- (ii) cultural background of countries hosting festivals/events;
- (iii) number of performers required;
- (iv) musical and dance style requested by host countries;
- (v) availability of the artists during the period concerned, and
- (vi) financial considerations.

Based on the above criteria, my Ministry ensures that a maximum number of artists have the opportunity to perform in foreign countries under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

However, it is to be noted that some countries clearly specify the style of dance/musical groups needed and in some cases even the names of groups are indicated.

We also have cases when cultural troupes or artists have made requests for performance overseas which have received positive reply from host countries. In such cases, as stipulated under the Cultural Exchange Programme, we provide the air tickets and all other costs are borne by the host country.

As for foreign cultural troupes visiting Mauritius under the Cultural Exchange Programme, in certain cases we indicate the style of music/dance group needed for specific festivals, like we request specific style for Divali, Eid, etc., otherwise the sending countries just inform us of the groups coming to Mauritius.