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**COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

TWENTIETH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

MARCH, 2023/PHALGUNA, 1944 (Saka)

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**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21 March, 2023

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 21 March, 2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

MARCH, 2023/PHALGUNA, 1944 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23)

Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
6. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
7. Smt. Preneet Kaur
8. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
9. Smt. Poonam Pramod Mahajan
10. Shri Srinivas Reddy Manne
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13. Shri Ritesh Pandey
14. Dr. K. C. Patel
15. Shri N.K. Premachandran
16. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
17. Shri Soyam Bapu Rao
18. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
19. Shri Rebati Tripura
20. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
21. *Vacant*

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
23. Smt. Misha Bharti
24. Shri Anil Desai
25. Shri Ranjan Gogoi
26. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
27. Shri Prakash Javadekar
28. Dr. Wanweiroy Kharlukhi
29. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
30. Shri Kapil Sibal
31. Shri Abdul Wahab

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | - | Director |
| 3. | Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut | - | Deputy Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twentieth Report of the Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Committee heard the views of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs at their Tenth Sitting held on 21 February, 2023.

3. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs for placing before them the material and information that the Committee desired and also appearing before the Committee for sharing their considered views in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2023-24).

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Twelfth Sitting held on 16 March, 2023.

5. The Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee held on 21 February, 2023 and 16 March, 2023 are given in Appendix-I and II to the Report.

6. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold.

NEW DELHI
16 March, 2023
25 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

P.P. CHAUDHARY
Chairperson,
Committee on External
Affairs

CHAPTER I

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2023-24

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) formulates and conducts India's foreign policy within the framework of our values and principles of fostering international peace and cooperation with the overall objective of meeting India's strategic aims and aspirations as well as to secure our national interests. In pursuance of its mandated objectives, the MEA Headquarters in New Delhi is assisted by 203 Missions and Posts abroad; its Branch Secretariats and Passport Offices in India; and Autonomous Bodies funded by it. The Ministry is also supported by other Ministries and State Governments who also contribute to India's international engagement in consultation and coordination with MEA.

1.2 Under the Constitution of India [Article 113 (2)], Estimates of Expenditure is submitted to Lok Sabha in the form of Demands for Grants. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs (Demand No. 29) was laid on the Table of the House on 3 February, 2023.

I. OVERALL BUDGETARY PROPOSALS , ALLOCATION AND UTILISATION

1.3 The Budget Allocation for Ministry External Affairs in Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23 was Rs. 17250.00 crore. The allocation in Revised Estimates (RE) 2022-23 was Rs. 16972.79 crore and the Actual Expenditure of the Ministry in FY 2022-23 (*up to December 2022*) is Rs.10375.90 crore (61% of RE 2022-23). The allocation in BE 2023-24 is Rs 18050.00 crore, which is 4.64% higher than BE 2022-23 allocation and 6.34% more than RE 2022-23 allocation.

1.4 The percentage of MEA's budget allocation as a percentage of the total Government of India Budget during five Financial Years is given below:-

Budget Estimates (Rs. in crore)					
5 FYs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
MEA Budget	17,885	17,347	18,155	17,250	18,050
GoI Budget	27,86,349	30,42,230	34,83,235	39,44,908	45,03,097
% of GoI Budget	0.64%	0.57%	0.52%	0.44%	0.40%

REVISED Estimates (Rs. in crore)					
5 FYs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
MEA Budget	17,372	15,000	16,000	16973	
GoI Budget	2698552	3450305	3770000	4187232	45,03,097

% of GoI Budget	0.64%	0.43%	0.42%	0.41%	
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1.5 When enquired whether the Ministry has made continuous efforts to ensure at least 1% allocation to the Ministry out of the overall budget of the GoI as recommended by the Committee in their earlier Report on Demands for Grants, the Ministry has stated that in accordance with the recommendations of the Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices in budgetary management, the Ministry continues to strive to formulate budgetary demands with a greater degree of rigor by using zero-based budgeting. The RE 2022-23 allocation for the Ministry was Rs. 16972.79 Cr (reduction of only Rs. 277.21 Cr i.e., 1.61% from BE 2022-23) and BE 2023-24 ceiling of Rs. 18050.00 Cr (increase of Rs. 800.00 Cr i.e., 4.64% from BE 2022-23). A consistent improvement in the Ministry's RE and BE demand-allocation differential indicates realistic projections and a constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements by Ministry of Finance as a result of the zero-based budgeting principle.

1.6 While tendering evidence before the Committee on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary submitted as under:

“The point you mentioned.....that our Budget is only a minor percentage of the GOI Budget. It is very well noted and very true. It is also because Government of India expenditure has increased far more rapidly than ours has been. But we have taken that observation very close to heart”.

1.7 The total Budgetary allocation during the last five years along with the

Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for the respective years including actuals & shortfall/excess at RE stage is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Increase/ Decrease at RE Stage
2018-19	15011.00	15582.00	15526.32	+571
2019-20	17884.78	17372.27	17272.05	-512.51
2020-21	17346.71	15000.00	14365.84	-2346.71
2021-22	18154.73	16000.00	14173.70	-2154.73
2022-23	17250.00	16972.79	10375.90*	-277.21
2023-24	18050.00			

*Actual Expenditure up to December 2022.

1.8 Explaining the specific reasons for reduction at RE 2022-23 and the issue of reduced allocation of funds at RE stage during the last three years as compared to Budget Estimates and the specifics of the interaction with the Ministry of Finance as well as the reasons for regular reduction in allocation for the Ministry, the Ministry has stated that MEA projected a budgetary demand of Rs. 18862.98 crore for RE 2022-23 and Rs. 21275.65 crore for BE 2023-34 to the Ministry of Finance, accompanied by detailed justifications. In accordance with the recommendations of the Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices in budgetary management, the Ministry continues to strive to formulate budgetary demands with a greater degree of rigor by using zero-based budgeting. As a result, unit-based expenditure plans that consider anticipated progress in ongoing projects,

likely new initiatives, challenges facing individual projects, etc., are integral to considering comprehensively the demand for and allocation of budgetary funds. As part of the Government's overall budgetary management, budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with the Heads of Division in the quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further discussed in a meeting presided by the Finance Secretary. The projected demand & allocation of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24, is thus based on exhaustive unit-wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years.

1.9 The RE 2022-23 allocation for the Ministry was Rs. 16972.79 crore (reduction of Rs. 277.21 crore i.e., 1.61% from BE 2022-23) and BE 2023-24 ceiling of Rs. 18050.00 crore (increase of Rs. 800.00 crore i.e., 4.64% from BE 2022-23). A consistent improvement in the Ministry's RE and BE demand-allocation differential indicates realistic projections and a constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements by Ministry of Finance as a result of the zero-based budgeting principle.

1.10 During the deliberations on Demands for Grants on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary reiterated this position as under:

“Ministry’s overall budgetary demand RE for 2022-23 was Rs. 19,095 crore and Rs. 21,556 crore for the next year budgetary allocation 2023-24 which is the demand we presented to the Ministry of Finance against which we got an RE allocation of Rs. 16,972 crore. I should say that it is healthy allocation. Budgetary allocation, for next year, of a handsome amount of about Rs. 18,050 crore was made.the budgetary allocation for the next year, thus, is 6.4 per cent higher than the RE allocation and over five per cent higher over the BE allocation of 2022-23. What we are finding.....is that with the easing of the supply chains post-covid and our expectations in Ministry’s budgetary utilization is actually quite ambitious. The target and our goal are to improve upon the pre-covid spending in the coming

months.....another milestone recommendation of the hon. Committee which actually helped us in proceeding on our Budget use and Budget allocation which was the recommendation on use of zero-based budgeting. This was the Committee's recommendation and Ministry's demand versus allocation differential has significantly improved over the year because of this recommendation. I want to highlight this and mention it for record.....allocation ratio of RE 2022- 23 and BE 2023-24 has increased considerably 89 per cent and 84 per cent respectively.....So, I had a Rs. 16,060 crore expenditure against Rs. 18,000 crore recommendation. In the previous year 2020-21, it was Rs. 15000 versus Rs. 17,346 allocation and the principal reason essentially were covid related....our expenditure this year will match very closely to the RE allocation that we got for this year.

We are today standing, if I am not wrong, at a place where we are roughly at 69-70 per cent of Budget that has already been spent for this year. We still have the month of February and March to account for. The Finance Ministry guidelines clearly stipulate that the last quarter should not account for more than 33 per cent. I think we are well within targets to hopefully cross around 92-93 per cent of RE allocation to be spent this year. our budgetary exercise is essentially focused on (1) proper utilization; (2) if possible, complete utilization; and (3) efficient utilization. So, when we look at budgetary figures.....we do not just look at them as absolute numbers, that is, my absolute number is less now. It will increase next year and it has decreased compared to last year and also need to combine it with efficient use of those resources because these are very precious resources of the Government of India”.

1.11 The details of the Budgetary Demands sought from the Ministry of Finance and the actual allocations made during the last three financial years and during 2023-24 is placed below: -

(Rs. in crore)

FY	BE Demand	BE Allocation	RE Demand	RE Allocation	Actuals

2020-21	20873.40	17346.71	18256.59	15000.00	14365.84
2021-22	22888.73	18154.73	18224.52	16000.00	14173.70
2022-23	20707.18	17250.00	19095.45	16972.79	10375.90*
2023-24	21276.65	18050.00	-	-	-

* Expenditure up to December 2022

1.12 It has been observed from the above that the Ministry of Finance had allocated lesser funds *vis- a-vis* BE and RE Demands of MEA.

1.13 When asked whether the justifications put forth by the Ministry for its budgetary projections during the last three years and for BE 2023-24 was not convincing to the Ministry of Finance, it has been stated that MEA's overall budgetary demand for RE 2022-23 was Rs. 19095 crores and Rs. 21556 crores for BE 2023-24. Against aforesaid budgetary demand, Ministry has received a healthy RE allocation of Rs. 16972 crores and BE allocation for next FY is Rs. 18050 crores. The BE allocation is thus 6.4% higher than the RE allocation and over 5% higher than BE 2022-23. Ministry's demand vs allocation differential has significantly improved over the years. Demand-allocation ration of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 is 89% and 84% respectively, an improvement of over 7-10% points in comparison to budgeting ration 5 years back. RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 differential is highest percentage of allocation in last three years. This Ministry has been following the Hon'ble Committee's advice to take up with Ministry of Finance, the requirement of optimum allocation of funds. As a result of these efforts, a perusal of last 3 years budgetary cycle reveals additional allocation of funds at supplementary stages, reflective of our constructive engagement with Finance Ministry. Based on this evidence, it may be said that the

justifications put forth by the Ministry for its budgetary projections during the last three years and for BE 2023-24 has been convincing to Ministry of Finance, which has reflected in healthy RE-BE allocations.

1.14 As regards the constructive engagement with the Ministry of Finance, during the deliberations on Demands for Grants on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary reiterated this position as under:

...the Ministry, ..has been following up very closely with the Ministry of Finance about our requirement and optimum allocation of funds. I must put on record that our cooperation, engagement, discussion, consultation with the Ministry of Finance have been most productive. They have always been very responsive, not just responsive, responsive in a very positive way. Whenever we have approached them that we need additional allocation for `x` grant; `y` project, `z` objective, they have always been very forthcoming, forward leading and progressive. As a result of these efforts..... if you peruse the last three years Budgetary cycle, it would reveal that additional allocation of funds at supplementary stages was reflective of this constructive engagement. We, to be honest, have only encountered positivity from the Ministry of Finance and a lot of this is based on what the Committee advise us to do in terms of our interface with the Ministry of Finance. I must underline this cooperation of the Ministry of Finance, for example, when we faced some urgent issues like for settlement of funds for Operation Ganga.. e-passport implementation..we needed extra resources for that. You talked about the upcoming G-20 event. When we approached them for those fundings, supplementary cash grants, they were more than happy and they gave us additional Rs. 250 crores which was over and above the Budgetary allocation of 2022-23”.

1.15 The Ministry has also provided the details of allocations sought at Supplementary Demands/Additional Demands during the year 2022-23 and the actual allocations given by the Ministry of Finance as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Supplementary 2022-23	Demand	Allocation
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First Supplementary	255.03	255.03*
Second & Final Supplementary	0.00	Yet to be approved

**Rs. 255 crores Supplementary required for recoument of Contingency Advance.*

1.16 The details regarding unspent funds surrendered the Ministry during the last three years by is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Years	BE	RE	Actual	Unspent balance of RE
2019-20	17884.78	17372.27	17272.05 (99.42%)	-100.22
2020-21	17346.71	15000.00	14365.84 (95.77%)	-634.16
2021-22	18154.73	16000.00	14172 (88%)	-1828.00

1.17 On being asked about the anticipated expenditure by 31 March 2023, the Ministry has stated that the expenditure up to December 2022 is 61%, as per cash management guidelines, expenditure in last quarter should not exceed 33%. Thereby, making this Ministry's expenditure target of 61% (up to Dec'22) + 33% (in last quarter) = 94% of allocated RE 2022-23.

1.18 On the justification for seeking enhanced BE and RE year after year while failing to achieve full utilization of the reduced allocation at the RE stage, the Ministry has stated that the projected demand & allocation of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24, is based on exhaustive unit wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic

assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years. The past 3 years being unusual given COVID related lockdowns and Cash Management guidelines in place in consonance with country's fightback to COVID, Ministry's efforts have been to keep establishment expenses in accordance with GOI's guidelines. Barring the COVID years, Ministry's expenditure has in fact ranged closed to 99-100% in last 5 years. Our expectation & endeavour is to fully utilize the allocation and revert to utilization trend of pre-COVID years.

1.19 On a query whether the Ministry has certain areas left for further streamlining in its budgetary planning process, the Ministry has stated that in accordance with the recommendations of the Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices in budgetary management, the Ministry continues to strive to formulate budgetary demands with a greater degree of rigor by using zero-based budgeting. As a result, unit-based expenditure plans that consider anticipated progress in ongoing projects, likely new initiatives, challenges facing individual projects, etc., are integral to considering comprehensively the demand for and allocation of budgetary funds. As part of the Government's overall budgetary management, budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with the Heads of Division in the quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further discussed in a meeting presided by the Finance Secretary. The projected demand & allocation of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24, was thus based on exhaustive unit wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years.

1.20 In addition, the Budget Circular 2023-24 dated 06 September 2022, wherein among other things, Ministries/Departments have been requested to take special note of data being captured under Estimated Committed

Liabilities (ECL) in MoF Portal for projecting allocations. The ECL module envisages to capture all committed liabilities of Government off India, internationally & domestically in single place and map them to budgetary outlays & commitment execution period. This in turn is expected to align budgetary allocation with actual commitments made. This Ministry would keep striving to fulfill the requirement of capturing detained information on ECL in an efficient and practical manner.

1.21 Regarding the efforts to be made in the CFY and FY 2023-24 for full utilization of the allocated funds, the Ministry has informed that it has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter with cumulative expenditure in first 3 quarters being 17%, 40% and 61 % of BE 2022-23. The expectation is to efficiently utilize RE allocation of Rs. 16972 crores. Utilization of RE 2022-23 up to December 2022 is 61%, this is majorly in accordance with cash management guidelines. The projected demand & allocation of RE 2022-23, is thus based on exhaustive unit wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years. The quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations put in place by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings reinforce effective utilization of available funds.

1.22 Regarding the expenditure till date, the Foreign Secretary stated during the deliberations on Demands for Grants on 21 February 2023, as under:

“There has been a slight error in the picture of the expenditure. This figure is 66 per cent or maybe touching 68-70 per cent and it is my expectation for myself and for the Ministry that we would be able to very efficiently and completely utilise the RE allocation of Rs. 16,972 by and large. ”

1.23 The initiatives/projects/schemes proposed to be taken up under the

increased BE 2023-24 allocation is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Heads	BE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
Sectt. General Services	541.79	1518.29
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	3100.01	4162.01
ICCR	320.00	345.21
Nalanda International University	200.00	250.00
Aid to Bhutan	2266.24	2400.58
Aid to Maldives	360.00	400.00
Investment Promotion & Publicity Programme	210.00	229.21
Capital Outlay on other Administrative Services	0.00	66.82
Capital Outlay on Misc. General Services	0.00	24.05
Capital Outlay on Housing	300.00	308.00
Loans to Govt. of Bhutan	706.23	768.34

1.24 Regarding the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to deliver on its various projects and commitments and likely increase in its activities in the post-COVID times, especially in view of lack of the required projected funds, the Ministry has informed that the Ministry's anticipation of expenditure progress in the current fiscal years is regularly assessed, which makes budgetary demand and allocation a dynamic process. Instruments for re-appropriating money, such as Supplementary requests, permit re-prioritization and re-allocation of funds in order to allocate budgetary resources fully and effectively. Therefore, funding provided to the Ministry in RE 2022-23 reflects a fair evaluation of our current international obligations, predicted spending growth, and realistic assessment of requirements in BE

2023–24 – including likely increase in its activities in the post-COVID times. The quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations put in place by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings reinforce the beneficial reallocation of budgetary distribution with a preference towards the Ministry's development partnership portfolio. The allocated outlays would suffice current international obligations and if need be Ministry will take all necessary steps to seek additional outlays from Ministry of Finance.

1.25 The Committee enquired about the progress made with regard to carrying out a cross-country analysis of budgetary allocation made to Departments/Ministries responsible for conducting foreign policies of important countries across the globe. The Ministry has responded that it would like to apprise the Hon'ble Committee that the Report on the cross - Ministry and cross-country comparative study of budgetary allocations of Ministries/Departments with the mandate of managing foreign affairs, being prepared by Research and Information System for Economic Development (RIS), has been finalized. As submitted earlier, before the Standing Committee on External Affairs on the Action Taken by Government, a comprehensive assessment of the preliminary report was undertaken in the Ministry. During this exercise, it was noted that the preliminary Report had included a limited number of countries and Ministries for its comparative analysis. Therefore, RIS was requested to expand the mandate of the study to include a greater number of countries (*representing a good mix of developed and emerging economies*) and a greater number of Ministries within the Government of India (*representing a cross section of key/ big and similarly placed Ministries*) for a more accurate comparative analysis.

1.26 Regarding the cross country analysis study report, the Foreign Secretary stated during oral evidence as under:

"I am pleased to inform that the RIS study has been completed fully

and its results have been fully decided and it will soon go for the phase of printing. It will be submitted before the hon. Committee”.

1.27 The Committee note that despite its challenging mandate in making India into a leading power and influential entity among the nations of the world, MEA remains one amongst the least funded Central Ministries and its revised budget hover around just 0.4 per cent of the total budgetary allocation of the Government of India since 2020-21. In B.E 2019-20, MEA had a share of 0.64% of GoI’s total budget. The Committee further note that despite them recommending that the allocation for the Ministry should be at least 1 % of the overall Budget of the GoI and India holding the G20 presidency, the budgetary allocation in BE 2023-24 has rather dropped by 0.04% from 0.44% in BE 2022-23 and not increased. Keeping in view the magnitude and extent of India’s diplomatic outreach and foreign policy objectives, the Committee continue to feel that an allocation of at least 1 % out of the overall Budget of the GoI to the Ministry is reasonable and achievable. The Committee, hence, desire that the Ministry should strive to enhance its financial resources in line with its diplomatic responsibilities globally. However, the increased allocation *per se* without the capacity to utilize the amount would be meaningless. The Committee, therefore urge the Ministry to work out a roadmap for enhancing its capacities and capabilities, whether it is in the form of structural change in the Ministry or a complete revamp of its organizational structure. Based on the roadmap prepared, a detailed proposal may be placed before the Ministry of Finance. Steps taken in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 1)

1.28 The Committee observe that as against the overall Budgetary Demand of Rs. 19095.45 crore for RE 2022-23 and Rs. 21,276.65 crore for BE 2023-24 in respect of MEA, the Ministry of Finance had allocated Rs. 16,972.79 crore and Rs. 18050.00 crore respectively. As per the Demand-Allocation statistics, the Ministry of Finance has been slashing down the Budgetary Demands of the Ministry of External Affairs since 2020-21. The Committee acknowledge that the BE 2023-24 allocation is 6.4% higher than the RE allocation and over 5% higher as compared to BE 2022-23. But, the allocation of Rs. 990 crore for G20 India Presidency Summit alone is more than the difference between the BEs of 2022-23 and 2023-24. Though the Demand-Allocation ratio of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 stands at 89% and 84% indicating an improvement over the last five years, it appears to the Committee that the shrinking of the gap between demand and allocation over the last few years is due to lower demand sought by MEA and not by better allocation given by the Government. Moreover, the fact remains that if the Budgetary requirements of the Ministry are not met, some of the schemes/projects/programmes would definitely be affected during 2023-24 also. The Ministry would also have to resort to various instruments for re-appropriating money, such as supplementary requests, permission for re-prioritization and re-allocation/rationalization of funds for Budget Heads, etc. Taking various factors into consideration like India's international obligations, expansion of its global foot print, assumption of Presidency of the G20 and the expectation that projects/schemes of the Ministry would pick up speed in the Post-COVID world, the Committee are of the view that the BE 2023-24 allocation is inadequate to carry out all the important activities of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make further improvements in its Budgetary planning process and impress upon

the Ministry of Finance to provide adequate Budgetary provisions so that it is able to fulfill all its international commitments without being hindered by financial constraints. The Committee also urge the Ministry to maintain constructive engagement with the Ministry of Finance so that additional Budgetary allocation, as and when sought, may be granted during the FY 2023-24.

(Recommendation No. 2)

1.29 The Committee note that despite getting lesser funds against its Demand for both BE and RE over the years, the Ministry has not been able to achieve full utilization of the allocated funds. The unspent balance surrendered during 2020-21 was Rs. 634.16 crores. During 2021-22, the actual expenditure of the Ministry was 88% and the unspent balance was Rs. 1828 crores. In the current Financial Year, the anticipated expenditure by 31 March, 2023 is 94%. Against this backdrop, the Committee desire that the Ministry should make constant endeavour to achieve full utilization of the RE allocation year after year and work towards this end during quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations. Only full utilization of allocated funds can justify a compelling case to the Ministry of Finance for enhanced BE in the next FY.

(Recommendation No. 3)

1.30 The Committee are happy to note that the Report being prepared by Research and Information System for Economic Development (RIS) analysing the budgetary allocations of Ministries/Departments conducting foreign policies of important countries as per the expanded mandate of the study, has been completed and would be shared with the Committee shortly. The

Committee desire that the Ministry should study the Report carefully and initiate action based on the findings of the study.

(Recommendation No. 4)

1.31 The Committee note that as per the Budget Circular dated 06 September 2022, Ministries/Departments have been requested to take special note of data being captured under Estimated Committed Liabilities (ECL) in Ministry of Finance Portal for projecting allocations. The ECL module envisages to capture all committed liabilities of Government of India, internationally and domestically in a single place and map them to budgetary outlays and commitment of execution period. The Committee desire that the MEA should fully comply with the stipulations in the said Circular so that its Budgetary Allocations are aligned with the actual commitments made.

(Recommendation No. 5)

II. CLASSIFICATION OF THE BUDGET OF MEA

1.32 The budget classifications of the Ministry are in terms of Revenue and Capital heads and Scheme and Non-Scheme sections. The Scheme section comprises of Ministry's Central Sector Schemes, which are essentially the technical and economic cooperation (Grants and Loan) assistance programmes for other countries.

A. REVENUE AND CAPITAL

1.33 The allocations as per Revenue/Capital heads are as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Section	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
----------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Revenue	15833.77	15789.10	16529.79
Capital	1416.23	1183.69	1520.21
Total	17250.00	16972.79	18050.00

1.34 It may be seen from the above that the allocations under Revenue and Capital heads have been reduced at the RE stage during 2022-23. However, the in the allocation for BE 2023-24 both has been enhanced. The allocation in BE 2023-24 is Rs 18050.00 crore, which is 4.64% higher than BE 2022-23 allocation and 6.34% more than RE 2022-23 allocation. Reduction at RE 2022-23 was within the overall fund allocated by Ministry of Finance and based on the pace of expenditure. However, enhanced allocation at BE 2023-24 is also reflective of two Major Heads are newly opened in the Capital Section after the Gazette Notification of Ministry of Finance for Operationalization of new Object Codes w.e.f. 01/04/2023 and specific allocation of Rs 990 crores for G-20 events on the Revenue side. These two heads cater to expenditure on purchase of Motor Vehicles, Information, Computer, Telecommunication equipment, Machinery & Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures. There was no separate allocation for these major heads at RE 2022-23 stage and were subsumed within earlier existing heads. In BE 2023-24, allocation is proposed as per the newly created object heads.

1.35 The Ministry has provided the details of projections made for Capital and Revenue section during the last three years including at the BE stage of 2023-24 as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Capital Projection		Revenue Projection		Total Projection	
	BE	RE	BE	RE	BE	RE
Year	BE	RE	BE	RE	BE	RE

2020-21	1794.69	1835.31	21863.04	16421.28	23657.73	18256.59
2021-22	2107.26	1447.81	20781.47	16776.71	22888.73	18224.52
2022-23	1601.79	1429.74	19105.39	17665.71	20707.18	19095.45
2023-24	1649.41	-	19906.83	-	21556.24	-

(Ref. Replies to the list of Point Pg. No.16)

1.36 The schemes/projects/activities where allocations were rationalized as a result of the actual pace of expenditure and the overall budget allocation under RE 2022-23 is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Heads	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23
Embassies & Missions	3769.06	3512.16
Entertainment Charges	93.28	61.54
Aid to Bangladesh	300.00	170.00
Aid to Nepal	750.00	425.00
Sri Lanka-other Aid Programmes	200.00	75.00
Aid to Myanmar	600.00	500.00
Aid to Other Developing Countries	150.00	135.00
ITEC Programme	167.70	125.00

Aid to African Countries	250.00	160.00
Aid to Eurasian Countries	140.00	65.00
Aid to Latin American Countries	40.00	7.00
Aid to Mongolia	12.00	2.50
Aid to Mauritius	900.00	575.00
Aid to Seychelles	14.06	6.45
Capital Outlay on Public Works	410.00	217.82
Capital Outlay on Housing	300.00	245.00

1.37 The sub-heads for which enhanced allocation has been provisioned in BE 2023-24 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Heads	BE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
G20 India Presidency Summit	35.00	990.00
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	3100.01	4162.01
ICCR	320.00	345.21
Nalanda International University	200.00	250.00
Aid to Bhutan	2266.24	2400.58
Aid to Maldives	360.00	400.00
Investment Promotion & Publicity Programme	210.00	229.21

Capital Outlay on other Administrative Services	0.00	66.82
Capital Outlay on Misc. General Services	0.00	24.05
Capital Outlay on Housing	300.00	308.00
Loans to Govt. of Bhutan	706.23	768.34

B. SCHEME and NON-SCHEME

1.38 The following table provides the allocation of the Ministry under Scheme/Non-Scheme:

Section	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
Scheme	6750.00	6005.70	5848.58
Non-Scheme	10500.00	10967.09	12201.42
Total	17250.00	16972.79	18050.00

1.39 Under Scheme section, RE 2022-23 was reduced to Rs. 6005.70 crore against the BE 2022-23 of Rs. 6750 crore and further reduced to Rs 5848.58 crore at BE 2023-24. However, the RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 in respect of Non-Scheme section have been enhanced.

1.40 Explaining the reasons for reduced allocation under Scheme section while enhancing the allocation under non-Scheme section, the Ministry has stated that the Scheme and Non-Scheme heads are further classified into heads indicated in the table. Allocation of funds under each sub-head as part of the Government's overall budgetary management, budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with the Heads of Division in the quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further discussed in a meeting

presided by the Finance Secretary. The projected demand & allocation of RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24, is thus based on exhaustive unit wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years.

1.41 The initiatives/projects/schemes proposed to be taken up under the increased allocation is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Heads	BE 2022- 23	BE 2023- 24
Sectt. General Services	541.79	1518.29
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	3100.01	4162.01
ICCR	320.00	345.21
Nalanda International University	200.00	250.00
Aid to Bhutan	2266.24	2400.58
Aid to Maldives	360.00	400.00
Investment Promotion & Publicity Programme	210.00	229.21
Capital Outlay on other Administrative Services	0.00	66.82
Capital Outlay on Misc. General Services	0.00	24.05
Capital Outlay on Housing	300.00	308.00
Loans to Govt. of Bhutan	706.23	768.34

1.42 On being asked about the monitoring mechanism followed for keeping a check on expenditure under 'Scheme' and 'Non-Scheme' Heads, the Ministry has stated that the status of projects, programmes, and schemes being implemented is continuously monitored, and financial disbursements are made accordingly. This includes holding quarterly meetings to review expenditure. Over the past years, there has been increased monitoring and evaluation of the technical aid and development assistance initiatives,

especially at the level of the External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary. For numerous initiatives when progress was slow, these reviews have determined the best course of action. Additionally, a number of new initiatives and projects have been identified in collaboration with the relevant beneficiary host governments due to the regular assessment and monitoring of MEA's scheme section at high levels. These initiatives and projects will soon be approved and put into operation.

1.43 Regarding monitoring of projects, the Foreign Secretary made the following submission during the course of evidence on 21 February 2023:

“.....we are expediting the completion of on-going projects..... On the high-level review mechanisms which is very important for the implementation of development programmes. Our hon. Prime Minister himself, through the Pragati programme; hon. External Affairs Ministers every quarter; I do it once in two to three weeks and my Special Secretary for External Relations Development, does it every week, if not every day. Our focus is heavy on this. Institutionally, structurally, what we are also trying to go to the next stage is that we are trying to establish, what we call, a project in contract and procurement management unit. What we find is that a lot of our establishment projects, a lot of our development projects, we run a large number of contracts and these contracts are not just internal to the country, they are also external to the country. We find that it is something which is very useful for us to take forward.....we are taking this forward. Something to this effect was also mentioned by the hon. Committee last time. So, we are taking it on-board.

We are also now working.....building an online dashboard where you can, at the click of a button, see how far the project has progressed, let us say, in the last 48 hours, last 72 hours, last one month, last one quarter. It is online monitoring of each and every project. I think, since 2014, if I am not wrong, we have run about 333 projects. The idea is to be able to mark each of these projects, put them on line and monitor their implementation in a manner which links well with how the budget is spent on these projects”.

1.44 The details of new initiative and projects identified in collaboration with the host Governments which are monitored at higher levels are as follows:

S. No.	Project Name	Status
1.	Air links with Maldives	Implemented
2.	Sea links with Maldives	Implemented
3.	Air links with Sri Lanka	Implemented
4.	Sea links with Sri Lanka	Multi-stakeholder meeting is conducted on regular basis to expeditiously complete the project
5.	Inland Waterway Connectivity with Nepal	Internal approvals are underway for signing of revised India-Nepal Treaty of Transit, which includes an amendment for using inland waterways as an additional means of transport for Nepals transit cargo. The revised Treaty will enable operationalisation of four multi-modal routes via inland waterway terminals at Sahibganj (Jharkhand), Kalughat (Bihar), Varanasi (UP) and Haldia (West Bengal)
6.	Shahbazpur-Kulaura Rail Link	The project has achieved 21% financial progress and 25% physical progress. Regular monitoring of the progress and follow-up of issues
7.	Dredging of Jamuna; Kushiara	Capital Dredging is completed. Maintenance dredging planned at regular intervals upto 2025.

	rivers for inland waterway connectivity	
8.	Cargo Access for NE through Chattogram, Mongla ports	First trial movement of containers from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram under the Agreement/ SOP on use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh commenced on 16 July 2020. Both sides are working on undertaking four more trials before full operationalisation of the route. Discussions on full operationalisation under progress.
9.	Movement of containerized traffic through Bangladesh to Northeast by IWT, road and rail.	2 protocol routes have been added to existing 8 routes. Container movement using IWT started in November 2019. BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement is under negotiation with Bangladesh for movement of containerized cargo. Both sides are discussing cargo protocol within the BBIN framework and last meeting happened in March 2022. The containerized cargo movement via rail can be pursued once Akhaura-Agartala and Shahbazpur Kulaura rail links are completed, where work is under progress.

1.45 Regarding the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry to ensure that the BE 2023-24 is not reduced at the RE stage and to convince the Ministry of Finance for better Budgetary Allocation under Heads that specifically cater to our international image, the Ministry has submitted that it is proposed that emphasis shall be given on regular monitoring of ongoing

projects as well as its pace of expenditure. Quarterly spending review meetings, among other avenues, all expenditures will be carefully reviewed, and financial releases shall be made in accordance with the degree to which projects, programmes, and other plans are implemented. This shall ensure timely disbursement of funds, efficient monitoring of project implementation etc. thereby, ensuring that the target project status as well as fund management is achieved. The allocation of funds at RE stage in any Financial Year is a function of utilization pattern and anticipated expenditure in last quarter.

1.46 Elaborating on the consistency of the Scheme and Non-Scheme commitments of the Ministry while tendering evidence before the Committee on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary submitted:-

“Our Scheme versus Non-Scheme commitments have remained, by and large, consistent. In 2020-21, it was 43 per cent scheme, 57 per cent non-scheme. Then, it was 42 and 58; then it was 39 and 61 and 32 and 68. This has, by and large, been consistent which essentially underlines one conclusion which is our prioritisation of development partnership with our international partners. Our significant resource allocation towards partnership is aided by the lean and mean establishment expenses.....I would particularly like to highlight that establishment expenses and overheads of our Ministry is just around 26 to 28 per cent. We are not an establishment heavy Ministry. We are not an overhead heavy Ministry. We are development heavy Ministry. Our Budget is focused more on that. We can of course do more. But I just wanted to highlight that particular point. Even with our non-scheme section..... it comprises, not necessarily, of establishment expenditure, it comprises of those projects which are crucial for our people. For example, the passport seva project which you mentioned, our contribution to the UN-related parties, very crucial, how we spend on projects relating to overseas Indians, the Diaspora connect, how we spend on capital expenditure on construction and acquisition of properties, all these are very essential elements of non-scheme part. Even in the non-scheme part, there is a heaviness on the project-specific thing which connects with the people”.

1.47 The Committee note that the Budget classifications of the Ministry are in terms of Revenue and Capital Heads and Scheme and

Non-Scheme sections. The allocations under Revenue and Capital Heads have been reduced at the RE stage during 2022-23. However, in the BE 2023-24, both the Revenue and Capital components are enhanced. The outlay for capital expenditure has been increased from ₹1,416.23 crore in 2022-23 to ₹1,520.21 crore in 2023-24. Under Scheme section, RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 have been reduced. However, RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 in respect of Non-Scheme section have been enhanced. The Committee take note of the reasons put forth by the Ministry such as, pace of expenditure, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in respective Financial Years, etc., for these reductions or enhancements. Though the development partnership portfolio comprising the MEA's "aid-heads", continues to be a priority of the budgetary allocation as it aggregated at 32.40 per cent of total budget allocation, it is a concern that the allocations under the budget heads 'Aid to Sri Lanka', 'Aid to other Developing countries', 'Aid to ITEC Programme' 'Aid to African Countries' and 'Aid to Seychelles' have consistently decreased from BE to RE since 2020-21. The Committee also note the slow pace of various projects. Since financial assistance or aid to other countries is not just about altruism but a lot about strategic partnership with a view to maximum dividends, the Committee desire that MEA's development aid to no country should be affected hampering the scope of India's rising stature and prominence amongst nations. The Committee also desire that with near normalization of the COVID situation, the Ministry should make all out efforts to improve the pace of expenditure in the current year.

(Recommendation No. 6)

1.48 The Committee find that a high level mechanism is in place in the Ministry to monitor the implementation of development partnership programmes and weekly reviews are being done by the officials at different levels. It is further understood that the Ministry is planning to establish a Contract and Procurement Management Unit. As a part of that , an online dashboard is being built to see with the click of a button how far the project has progressed, even in the last 48 hours. The Committee are extremely happy to see the efforts to mark all projects on line and monitor their implementation in a manner which links well with how the budget is spent on these projects. The Committee desire that the online dashboard is made operational and the Contract and Procurement Management Unit is set up in the Ministry at the earliest and the progress in this regard is intimated to the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 7)

III. REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE

1.49 The Ministry has furnished the following table depicting utilization of quarterly allocations during the last three years –

(Rs. In Crore)

2020-21	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Allocation	3874.09	3874.09	3874.09	5724.67	17346.71
Utilisation	3586.43	3239.01	3965.03	3575.37	14365.84

2021-22	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total

	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	
Allocation	4054.54	4054.55	4054.55	5991.09	18154.73
Utilisation	2654.70	4017.85	3375.88	4125.27	14173.70

2022-23	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Allocation	3852.49	3852.50	3852.50	5692.51	17250
Utilisation	2954.80	3864.38	3556.72	-	10375.90*

***up to December 2022**

1.50 The Ministry has stated that in Financial Year 2022-23, it has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter, to the extent possible. Cumulative expenditure in the first three quarters has First quarter - 17%, Second quarter - 40% and third quarter - 60% of BE 2022-23. The quarterly expenditure by the Ministry in FY 2022-23 was in consonance with Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, last quarter ceiling of 33% and 15% in March 2023. End-December expenditure figure is over 61% of RE 2022-23. For effective quarterly expenditure management, all expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly budget management & expenditure review meetings. In these meetings the expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed and the

importance of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year is emphasized & monitored. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of majority of the Ministry's spending being in foreign countries, where diverse local conditions, inter-alia including geological, security, administrative, legal & economic ecosystems and varying project development and implementation schedules posing significant challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle. Ministry's budgetary & expenditure management, thus is unlike any other Ministry in Government, with global diversity of various ecosystems, in which our projects are executed & expenditure managed.

1.51 The Committee observe from the utilization of quarterly allocations of the Ministry during 2021-22 and 2022-23 that the pace of expenditure has been slow during 1st and 3rd quarter of the Financial Year. When enquired whether any fresh initiative is being contemplated by the Ministry to ensure smooth and balanced expenditure especially during the 1st and 3rd quarter of a financial year, the Ministry has stated that in Financial Year 2022-23, Ministry has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter, to the extent possible. Cumulative expenditure in the first three quarters has First quarter - 17%, Second quarter - 40% and third quarter - 61% of BE 2022-23. The quarterly expenditure by the Ministry in FY 2022-23 was in consonance with Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, last quarter ceiling of 33% and 15% in March 2023. End-December expenditure figure is over 61% of RE 2022-23.

1.52 For effective quarterly expenditure management, all expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources

during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly budget management & expenditure review meetings. In these meetings the expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed and the importance of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year is emphasized & monitored. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of majority of the Ministry's spending being in foreign countries, where diverse local conditions, inter-alia including geological, security, administrative, legal & economic ecosystems and varying project development and implementation schedules posing significant challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle. Ministry's budgetary & expenditure management, thus is unlike any other Ministry in Government, with global diversity of various ecosystems, in which our projects are executed & expenditure managed.

1.53 Regarding the measures of economy followed in budget utilization over the past few years, the Ministry has informed that all instructions contained in various Circulars of Ministry of Finance towards economy measures, rationalization of expenditure, etc., are scrupulously followed by the Ministry. The past 3 years being unusual given COVID related lockdowns and Cash Management guidelines in place in consonance with country's fightback to COVID, Ministry's efforts have been to keep establishment expenses in accordance with GOI's guidelines. All expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly expenditure review meetings.

1.54 In their previous Demands for Grants Reports, the Committee had strongly recommended the Ministry to develop a well-defined and focused budgetary planning process so as to ensure that allocations sought are arrived at keeping in view achievable plans and projects and the absorption capacity of various units under the Ministry. The Ministry was further urged to consider the concept of Zero-Based budgeting while drawing up their future projects.

1.55 When asked the extent to which the Ministry has succeeded in developing a focused and well- defined budgetary planning process, the Committee have been informed Ministry's evaluation of budgetary demand and its dynamic repurposing during any Financial Year are guided by the overriding premise of Zero-based budgeting. This has also been the Hon'ble Standing Committee's consistent advice. In addition, the Government and Ministry's strategy in this regard is outcome-centric rather than outlay-centric as part of the approach taken by the entire Government and the shifting paradigm of budgetary resource consideration. Therefore, allocations for Aid headings are decided after conducting a realistic spending evaluation based on project implementation cycles, local conditions, and physical progress for ongoing projects, schemes, and programmes; and based on project implementation timeframes and cost projections for planned projects, schemes, and programmes. Quarterly Budget Management & Expenditure Review Meetings, which are presided over by the Foreign Secretary, are a strict procedure the Ministry has devised. These budget management meetings are a thorough exercise in evaluating projects and changing demands under several heads of technical and economic cooperation as well as on the non-scheme head. For ongoing projects funded by the aid programmes, the budgetary needs are estimated based on data collected from the main divisions/spending units, compared to prior project usage, work progress, and spending rates. A realistic budgetary estimate is

created by the Ministry with the help of these budget management meetings and discussions with various expenditure units at the RE and BE. Budgetary provisions for new projects are prepared in accordance with projections based on project implementation timetables and cost estimates in their Detailed Project Reports. The amount of funds available within the overall budgetary provision established by the Ministry of Finance is subsequently allocated. The Territorial Divisions and Development Partnership Administration Division make the administrative choice of the projects to be carried out under the Aid headings in light of the political ties with the various countries.

1.56 On the benefits and challenges in adopting Zero Based budgeting while drawing up budgetary demands for FY 2023-24, the Ministry has stated that the Ministry's budget management is continuously evaluated and assessed in relation to funds use using the overarching zero-based budgeting approach. The outcome of more precise budgetary planning is shown in RE and BE's demand vs. allocation ratios, which are the most advantageous in recent years, with RE 2022-23 proposed demand realization at 89% (compared to last FY's 88% demand) and BE 2023-24 projected demand realisation at 84.83% (vs. last FY's 83% demand). The Ministry will put more effort into achieving this goal in order to meet budgetary demands that are credible and justified by past effective use of funds and unbiased assessment of anticipated expenditures based on implementation progress. The Ministry's goal is to reduce the difference between budgetary allocations made to meet demand and those made to meet allotted resources. This goal is supported by reliable assessment and efficient use of allocated resources. In accordance with Zero-based budgeting, no head, whether Scheme or Non-Scheme heads, receives fixed or rigid budgetary resource allocation or management; rather, each head is evaluated for respective demands taking a base of Zero into account.

1.57 When asked whether the Ministry has taken any fresh initiative in pursuance of the Committee's recommendations on improving financial management and spending pattern to avoid last quarter expenditure beyond the 33% ceiling and the 15% expenditure ceiling for March, the Ministry has stated that Foreign Secretary presides over quarterly meetings of the budget management team. In order to make the best possible use of budgeted funds during each quarter of the fiscal year, the Financial Advisor rigorously and frequently monitors expenditures in cooperation with the Divisional Heads, including through quarterly expenditure review meetings. The expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed during the quarterly expenditure review meetings, and an emphasis is placed on the necessity of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the fiscal year. As a result, Divisions/Spending Units make every effort to assure regularly spaced spending, but they are constrained by the fact that the majority of the spending takes place in foreign nations, where a variety of local conditions and various project development and implementation deadlines make it difficult to align spending with our budget cycle.

1.58 The Committee observe that the pace of expenditure has been slow during 1st and 3rd quarter of 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Ministry, however, has stated that in Financial Year 2022-23, Ministry has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter, to the extent possible. The quarterly expenditure by the Ministry in FY 2022-23 was in consonance with Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, last quarter ceiling of 33% and 15% in March 2023. The percentage of expenditure is over 61% at the end of December 2022. The Committee desire that it should be the endeavour of the Ministry to constantly improve its performance and

pace of utilization of funds and make all possible efforts to achieve full and complete utilization of the allocated funds within the Financial Year.

(Recommendation No. 8)

CHAPTER-II
SECTORAL ALLOCATION

The total budget allocated to the Ministry for Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 is Rs. 18,050 crore at the Budget Estimates (BE) stage. The Budget's sectoral distribution for major allocations is as below:

Sectoral Allocation (in Rs. crore)

Sector		Allocation in BE 2022-23	Allocation in BE 2023-24
Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries	Grants	6043.77	5080.24
	Loans	706.23	768.34
	Total	6750.00	5848.58
Indian Missions and Posts abroad		3769.06	3528.84
Special Diplomatic Expenditure		3100.01	4162.01
Passport and Emigration		1001.67	1002.80
International Cooperation		898.46	762.56
Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing		710.00	661.00
MEA Secretariat		541.79	1518.29
Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions		354.90	380.50
Others		124.11	185.42
Total		17250.00	18050.00

2.2 The allocation to Major Heads for the year 2023-24 along with the details of the minor head components is as below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Major Head	Components	Allocation
Secretariat General Services "2052"	Expenses on Ministry's Secretariat/establishment, hostels and residential complexes, foreign and domestic travel expenses, Public Diplomacy, Press Relations, Trade & Investment Promotion, States facilitation and knowledge support And G 20 Presidency Summit.	1518.29

External Affairs "2061"	Foreign Service Institute, expenditure on India's diplomatic Missions and posts abroad, Central passport Organization and Protector General of Emigrants, welfare of overseas Indians, hospitality to dignitaries, contributions to UNO and other international organizations, grants to autonomous bodies and institutions etc.	9936.25
Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries "3605"	India's aid and assistance programmes	5080.24
Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing "4059" & "4216"	Acquisition, construction and major renovation of GOI-owned Chanceries and residential properties abroad and offices in India	661.00
Capital Outlay on Administrative Services and Misc. General Services "4070" & "4075"	Expenditure on purchase of Motor Vehicles; Information, Computer, Telecommunication equipment; Machinery & Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures	90.87
Advances to Foreign Government "7605"	Extending loans to Foreign Governments	768.34
Total BE for FY 2023-24		18049.97

2.3 An analysis of some of the sub-heads for which allocation has been made is done in this chapter.

I. ADMINISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

2.4 The Major Revenue Head 2052 on 'Secretariat-General Services' caters to the Ministry's expenses on secretariat/establishment, Public Diplomacy, Press and Media Relations, States Facilitation and knowledge Support, Hostels and Residential Complexes, Trade & Investment Promotion and G 20 Presidency Summit.

2.5 The Foreign Secretary oversees the functioning of the Ministry at the official level. The MEA HQs in New Delhi is organized into Territorial and Functional Divisions, with Territorial Divisions overseeing and managing bilateral relations with specific foreign countries, structured regionally. Moreover, following the merger of the erstwhile MOIA with MEA, the administrative and secretarial functions have been integrated in MEA's organizational set up.

2.6 The main responsibility of the Administration Division in the Ministry is to provide manpower resources both at its Headquarters and in 201 Indian Missions/Posts, and Representative Offices abroad. In this regard, the Division oversees cadre management exercises which involve recruitment, training, postings/ transfers, deputations, and career progression

2.7 The sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4488, with 52% of these posts located in Missions abroad. The total strength is distributed across different cadres of the Ministry such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre, Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal & Treaties Cadre, among others. The Ministry reorganises its divisions and their responsibilities to account for new developments and functional priorities such as Creation of G 20 Division. Currently, there are 57 divisions in the Ministry.

2.8 The details of Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on 2022 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce, ex-cadre posts and posts encadred from MOIA & POE) as on 30 June 2022 is as below:

S.N o.	Cadre/ Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46

3	Grade III	38	147	185
4	Grade IV	58	155	213
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	114	282	396
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	Sub Total I	334	677	1011
IFS (B)				
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	362	253	615
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	217	560	777
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	54		54
10	(i) Grade V/VI	173	84	257
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	47	61	108
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	526	554	1080
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	9	26	35
14	L&T Cadre	20	3	23
	Sub Total II	1811	1666	3477
	Grand Total (Subtotal I+II)	2145	2343	4488

2.9 During the course of evidence, the Committee had expressed their diplomatic services and the adequacy of its manpower, the Committee would like to hear from the Ministry as they feel that we have far too less number

of IFS "A" Officers than actually required to represent India's interests at the Headquarters and at our Missions abroad, including various multilateral agencies. Apprising the Committee about the human resources constraint in MEA, the Foreign Secretary during the course of oral evidence on 21 February, 2023 submitted as under: -

"We are at 1,011. That is the current strength of foreign service. xxxx. Fortunately, with the great collaboration of the Ministry of Finance, DoPT and the Cabinet Secretary, we are currently in an advanced stage of ensuring that this number increases to a number what the Government think it to be fit. We are working on that. We hopefully will have an answer which will work for us. xxxx over the last 5-6 years, xxx, we have increased our indent to the UPSC for recruitment of foreign service personnel. xxxxx these days the indent is 35 to 40. So, every year we are giving an indent of 35. Our target is to take it to 50. But we need to manage it with a garter management. We do not want a system that we have a bulge in the bottom and the middle, and there are not enough spaces at the top. Then, it leads to stagnation and problems. xxxxx we have roughly 70 plus consultants. These are private sector people who have come in and they are working for the Ministry. They are there across the entire set of Department.

We also have a set of people on deputation from Police Service, Railway Service, Forest, Customs, Revenue, Economic Service, Civil Accounts Services, Central Police Organizations, Audit Account Service, Ordnance Factory Service, and Central Secretariat Service. We requisition the services of these officers and they are able to then become part of our team along with the 70 plus private consultants that we have brought in. So, I would say, we are in the forefront. We are one of the very few Ministries, which is so outward driven in terms of getting talent from other non-MEA Departments and Ministries. Coming to filling up of vacancies which is something which the hon. Prime Minister has stressed, we are pushing very hard. I must present it to the hon. Committee that we are limited in our efforts because the recruitments are not done by us. It is done by the UPSC and the SSC. So, they have to recruit faster for us to be able to get more people on our side."

2.10 The data on the number of women employees (at both Gazetted and non-Gazetted positions) within the MEA are as follows:

(As on 8 February, 2023)

SI No	Number of women employees in MEA	
1	Gazetted	445
2	Non-Gazetted	231

2.11 Currently, India has 14 Lady Officers posted as Heads of Missions.

2.12 Elucidating on the steps taken by the Ministry to provide gendered perspective to various schemes/programmes and policies of the Ministry, it stated that the recruitment of IFS officers is via a competitive examination conducted by UPSC. There is no gender-based reservation in direct recruitment to IFS or in induction and promotion to IFS from the feeder grade of Grade I of IFS Branch B. However, the Service provides equal opportunities to both men and women and maintains a steady gender balance, with increased number of women officers entering the Service in recent years. Gender equality is more a common practice than an exception as far as the IFS is concerned.

2.13 The Committee note that India's Diplomatic Service is perhaps the most short-staffed in comparison to many other countries whose economy and stature is much leaner than that of ours. The total strength of 4888 is distributed across different cadres of the Ministry such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre, Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal & Treaties Cadre, among others. The cadre strength of Indian Foreign Service Officers is only 1011 which is just 22.5% of the total strength. Out of IFS 'A' cadre, 667 are posted at our Missions abroad and 334 are manning the headquarters in Delhi which at present has 57 divisions. The

Committee feel that we have far too less number of IFS "A" Officers than actually required to represent India's interests at the Headquarters and at our Missions abroad, including various multilateral agencies. The Committee are of the view that with the profound changes taking place in the Foreign Policy from Indian perspective it is imperative that the cadre strength of the Ministry commensurate with India's expanding international stakes. To work towards global leadership as envisaged and for executing foreign policy strategy effectively across countries, our missions must be staffed with highly skilled/trained diplomats. With the felt need of having Missions in all the UN member countries, there is an increased requirement of manpower in the diplomatic cadre. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should get their cadre review done at the earliest to build capabilities for shouldering the expanded mandate while enriching the capacity of its existing personnel. The Committee may be apprised of the efforts taken in this regard. The Committee may also like to see that this review should primarily be based on a comparative analysis of the strength of the diplomatic corps of our country with major developing countries, countries in the neighbourhood and China.

(Recommendation No. 9)

2.14 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry keeps reorganising its divisions and their responsibilities to account for new developments and functional priorities such as the creation of G 20 Division. The Committee are of the view that filling up of vacancies should be taken up on priority basis. The Committee also observe that the Ministry have been taking a series of affirmative action such as increasing the indent to UPSC, engaging consultants

and bringing in talents from non MEA Departments and Ministries through deputation. Time and again the Ministry have taken a plea that manpower crunch is on account of the delay in timely filling up of vacancies which is being done by UPSC and SSC. The Committee urge the Ministry to take it up at the highest levels of the Government to consider the human resource requirements of MEA favourably and also pursue vigorously with Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to fill up the vacancies on priority basis.

(Recommendation No. 10)

II. G20 INDIA'S PRESIDENCY SUMMIT

2.15 India assumed the Presidency of G20 on 01 December, 2022 for a period of one year. The G20 Presidency is India's most high profile international endeavour ever. To prepare effectively for the substantive and logistical aspect of the Presidency, India's G20 Secretariat was established in the Ministry, New Delhi in February, 2022. Around 200 G20 meetings and events in over 30 different work streams, comprising Sherpa Track Working Groups, Finance Track Workstreams, Ministerial meetings and Engagement Groups, have been planned to be hosted across the length and breadth of the country during the Presidency.

2.16 The logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency were launched by Prime Minister on 08 November, 2022. India's G20 Presidency theme, "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth One Family One Future*" underlines the message of equitable growth and a shared future for all.

2.17 A key element of India's G20 Presidency is taking the G20 closer to the public and making it a 'People's G20'. To realize this, citizen engagement and large-scale public participation through various 'Jan Bhagidari' activities are being planned and conducted across the country.

2.18 The Ministry has provided the following details regarding the allocation under the Sub-Head, G20 India Presidency Summit:-

(Rs. in crores)

Head	BE 2022-23	RE 2022- 23	Actual*	BE 2023-24
Office Expenses	10.00	10.00	4.21	911.00
Other Administrative Expenses	20.00	261.00	0.15	Object head subsumed in Office Expenses
Professional Services	5.00	49.00	0.82	79.00
Total	25.00	320.00	5.18	990.00

*up to December 2022

2.19 Responding to a query of the Committee, the Ministry has stated that the allocation under G20 India Presidency Summit in FY 2022-23 is Rs. 320 crore, out of which an expenditure of Rs. 92,59,06,971/- has been incurred as on date. An amount of Rs. 990 crore has been allocated for the financial year 2023-24, which is not adequate based on current estimations and projections. It is understood that other Ministries have also sought funds for certain Ministry led decentralized G20 initiatives and programmes like 'Jan Bhagidari', etc.

2.20 On being asked to state the manner in which the Ministry will ensure that the required funds for the various activities/Summit of G20 are available before more funds can be sought at the RE stage, the Ministry has stated that the G20 Secretariat has been allocated a budget of Rs. 320 crore in RE for FY 2022-2023 and Rs. 990 crore in BE-2023-2024. It is G20 Secretariat's endeavor to spend this allocated fund in a timely manner.

2.21 Based on the experience gained in organizing G20 meetings/events so far and analyzing the trend of meeting-wise expenditure, the G20 Secretariat has projected the expenditure for the upcoming meetings. Secretariat & Ministry will seek additional outlays for G-20 meetings implementation during the course of FY 2023-2024.

2.22 During the course of evidence on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary gave a brief overview of India's G20 Presidency as under:

"Sir, you referred to the G-20 Presidency, it is one of the unique opportunities for India to present to the world a face of leadership, diversity, development and our successes and development template to the world. We commenced it on the 1st of December last year and it will continue till November this year. This would be the first time that India would be acting as a G-20 Presidency since the G-20 moved to the leader's level forum. The theme for the Presidency is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, roughly translated into 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. Besides the G-20 countries, we have invited nine countries from other parts of the world - Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE. Besides, of course, the other international organisations like ADB, ISA which is our own International Solar Alliance. There will be CDRI also".

2.23 The Foreign Secretary also elaborated on the specific training programmes for officers in connection with the G20 Summit/events/programmes as under:

"For G20, we are undertaking specific training programmes. We have recently conducted a formal training programme for all the liaison officers who will get attached to the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting. G20 Secretariat periodically holds inter-ministerial training, familiarisation. I have myself held at least two, three sessions with the other Secretaries trying to focus on what could be China/Russia related challenges. So, this is a very regular exercise which we continue to do".

2.24 The Committee note that out of the allocation of Rs 320 crore in 2022-23 for G20 India's Presidency Summit, the expenditure incurred so far under this Head is Rs 92.59 crore and an amount of Rs 990 crore has been provisioned in the BE 2023-24. The

Committee understand that the BE 2023-24 allocation is not adequate based on current estimations and projections and G20 Secretariat/MEA would seek additional outlay for implementation of G20 meetings during the course of FY 2023-24. Being aware of the magnitude and scale of events/programmes planned all over the country during India's G20 Presidency, the Committee expect timely availability of funds for effective implementation of events and programmes scheduled for the current year. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should remain vigilant and keep close and diligent watch on the trend of expenditure while holding G20 meetings/events and make careful regular analysis for funding requirements so that a realistic projection of anticipated expenditure is arrived at well in advance and the Ministry can get the desired funds from the Ministry of Finance well on time to meet all the expenses in this regard.

(Recommendation No. 11)

2.25 The Committee note that the G20 Presidency is India's most high profile international endeavour ever. It is also a unique opportunity to present a face of leadership, diversity, success and our development template to the world. The Committee feel that in order to showcase the best of India to the world, and to live up to India's vision of becoming 'Viswa Guru' each and every personnel to be engaged from the stakeholder organisations for G20 programmes need to be groomed appropriately. Hence, the Committee desire that formal training for all the officials involved in the upcoming events should be held at regular intervals, in addition to inter-ministerial training and familiarisation programmes held by the G20 Secretariat. As citizen engagement and large scale public participation through

various 'Jan Bhagidari' activities are also being planned and conducted across the country, follow up training for the officials of all line Ministries as well as the Protocol Officers of States should also be conducted so that the decentralized activities and programmes are brought in alignment with the G20 initiatives and programmes. Further, no stone should be left unturned in creating awareness among the citizens about the mission and vision of G20 to be upheld as a country before the visiting delegations.

(Recommendation No. 12)

III. TRAINING

2.26 Foreign Service Institute conducts in-service training for Indian Foreign Service Officers and other MEA personnel, courses for foreign diplomats and other professional training courses. The Budgetary Allocation under the Sub-Head was Rs. 23.48 crore during BE 2022-23, which was reduced to Rs. 23.27 crore during RE 2022-23. The BE 2023-24 has further been reduced to Rs. 21.19 crore.

2.27 On being asked whether the number of training programmes conducted by the Institute is likely to decrease as a result of the reduced allocation under this Sub-Head and the manner in which the increase in demand for training would be reconciled, the Ministry has stated that the allocation of funds at the BE stage for the FY 2023-24 is sufficient and all training programmes, both mandatory and skill development programmes, will be conducted as per the training calendar of SSIFS. No capacity building activities will be impacted. Additional requirement of funds will be projected at the RE stage.

2.28 Following are the details of 'Actuals' for the last three financial years on training by the SSIFS:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Actual Expenditure
1	2019-20	25.28
2	2020-21	8.02
3	2021-22	8.94
4	2022-23	9.91*

***upto December 2022**

2.29 The Ministry has provided the details of training programmes conducted for Indian diplomats/officials and foreign diplomats/officials during the last three financial years as given in Annexure A and B, respectively. Given the integrated nature of SSIFS facilities, personnel, resources, utilities, etc, it is not feasible to make an accurate division of expenditure on training of Indian diplomats/officials and foreign diplomats/officials.

2.30 Regarding the measures put in place to incorporate feedback from trainees, the Ministry has stated that feedback for each course is gathered and analyzed at two levels. During the course itself, participants give written feedback on all sessions/speakers. At the end of each course, the participants give their overall written feedback and suggestions about various aspects of the course. A feedback session (in-person or virtual) is also held for the participants at the end of the course which is chaired by the Dean with participation of Joint Secretary and Course Coordinators at the SSIFS where the participants share their feedback with them. Feedback from trainees is considered carefully and SSIFS endeavors to incorporate valuable suggestions from the trainees to the extent possible.

2.31 On further asked about the details of suggestions/feedbacks from

trainees incorporated by the SSIFS, the Ministry has stated that a lot of emphasis is placed on feedback of sessions, both in terms of content and guest speakers. In order to promote active learning, suggestions to include more sessions on case studies, simulations, role play, group discussions, debates, fire-side chats to complement classroom sessions, have been incorporated in various training programmes. SSIFS has also incorporated suggestions for inclusion of field visits, attachments, study tours, industry interface in its training programmes along with more co-curricular activities like yoga, fitness activities, quiz, theatre workshops, screening of documentaries, etc.

2.32 When asked to specify whether there have been instances of non-conducting of any regular training programme, the Ministry has stated that all regular training programmes were conducted during the past three financial years. Since FY 2020-21, a few courses for Foreign Diplomats (which are always scheduled in consultation with the participating country), have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 lock down and travel restrictions.

2.33 Responding to a query regarding the proposal to introduce new training programmes or modifying the existing framework for training programmes during 2023-24, the Ministry has stated that SSIFS has been closely working with other GoI Ministries, Departments, State Governments and other Central Training Institutes for conducting training and familiarization programmes, and would continue to do so in 2023-24. Acting on DoPT's instructions, SSIFS introduced a new training module on 'India and its neighborhood' during the 96th Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie in March 2022 (FY 2021-22). The same has become part of SSIFS's annual calendar and would be continued in FY 2023-24 and beyond.

2.34 The Committee also enquired whether any special trainings are being planned in connection with G20 for officers from the country and

abroad, they have informed that two training programmes were conducted in connection with G20 Summit - (i) a training programme for more than 375 G20 Liaison Officers from various GoI line Ministries was organized by SSIFS in coordination with G20 Secretariat and Protocol Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs; and (ii) training programme for around 60 officers from Protocol Departments of 22 State & UT Governments. More such training programmes are planned in the lead up to the G20 Summit in September, 2023.

2.35 The Foreign Secretary apprised the Committee about the new training programme for diplomats of global South in SSIFS during the course of evidence on 21 February 2023 as under:-

“I would like to mention that when we recently held the Voice of Global South Summit, hon. Prime Minister announced training of diplomats of global South in our SSIFS. So, that is going to be our next major segment target. Currently, we do a customised programme for some countries. We take diplomats of some countries on board for our own training programmes. But now, we would be opening up our training programmes to all the 134 countries of global South which participated. So, we hope that our footprint and as a result expenditure on that footprint would also increase in coming years when it comes to this”.

2.36 SSIFS, MEA have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with 98 countries. The Ministry has stated that the primary objective of the MoUs is to seek cooperation in mutually beneficial areas of activity which include exchange of information of structure and content of training programmes for diplomats; identification of experts in mutually agreed areas, promotion of contacts and exchange of diplomats, faculty members and experts.

2.37 On being asked about the details and outcome of International outreach activities being organized by SSIFS, the Ministry has stated that a substantial part of SSIFS’s training calendar comprises of specially

curated country-specific and region-specific training programmes for foreign diplomats. Over the last three Financial Years (2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22), thirty seven (37) such training programmes have been organized by SSIFS.

2.38 SSIFS is a member of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT), a premier global forum of 74 diplomatic training academies & academic institutions from 60 countries around the world. It meets on an annual basis in different member countries. The 48th Annual meeting was organized by SSIFS from 14-18 November 2022 in New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.

2.39 Apart from the above, there are regular meetings of Dean and senior officials of SSIFS with their counterparts from international diplomatic institutions visiting India as well as with Head of Missions resident in Delhi. These meetings help promote bilateral cooperation in training related matters.

2.40 Regarding the steps being taken by the Ministry of External Affairs to professionalize FSI by inducting domain experts as well as faculty from foreign countries, the Ministry has submitted that as a Central Training Institute, SSIFS is committed to maintaining a high degree of excellence and professionalism while conducting courses. To strengthen the institute's competence and expertise, an Academic Wing was created in 2018, following which relevant academic and professional have been recruited as Faculty members. Currently, there is no proposal to induct faculty from foreign countries.

2.41 The Committee find that as a premier diplomatic training institution, the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) cater to the professional training requirements of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers , members of other civil services and foreign

diplomats. The Committee have been informed that the Budgetary Allocation of Rs 21.19 crore provided for the FY 2023-24 is sufficient and all the training programmes, both mandatory and skill development programmes, will be conducted as per the training calendar of SSIFS. The Committee, however, note that since 2020-21, the actual utilisation and the pace of utilisation of funds on training by the SSIFS has been slow. Though a few courses for Foreign Diplomats have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions, all regular training programmes were conducted. Since the COVID situation has eased out, the Committee expect that more training programmes for Foreign Diplomats would be conducted during 2023-24 and as a result, utilisation of funds under the Head would also improve. The Committee desire that the Ministry should begin the process of consultation with interested/participating countries early so that the schedule for training courses are finalised and training could commence at the beginning of the Financial Year itself.

(Recommendation No. 13)

2.42 The Committee note that SSIFS has introduced a new training module on 'India and its Neighbourhood' during the 96th Foundation course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie in March 2022 and the same has become a part of SSIFS's Annual Calendar. The Committee understand that the first ever training module of this nature for the IAS Officers is part of the Government's efforts to mainstream Neighbourhood First Policy in the functioning of all Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. While expressing their deep appreciation about this training programme, the Committee hope that the SSIFS will keep updating and upgrading the contents/structure of this

training to help every IAS officer imbibe the spirit of India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

(Recommendation No. 14)

2.43 The Committee further note that as announced in the Global South Summit, SSIFS would be conducting training programmes for Diplomats of the Global South under Global South Young Diplomats Forum. This, the Committee understand, would open up our training programmes to all the 134 countries of Global South. Since courses and programmes for foreign diplomats are a way to build bridges of friendship with other countries, the Committee desire that our footprint as member of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) is increased in coming years. The Committee further desire that the modalities for training Diplomats of the Global South should be worked out at the earliest so that the training could commence from the first quarter of FY 2023-24.

(Recommendation No. 15)

IV. EMBASSIES AND MISSIONS

2.44 This Head provides for expenditure on India's representation abroad and functioning of Missions/Posts abroad. An outlay of Rs. 3769.06 crore was allocated during BE 2022-23 and it was reduced to Rs. 3512.16 crore at the RE stage. A provision of Rs. 3528.85 crore has been made in BE 2023-24.

2.45 When asked the reasons for reduced allocation of RE 2022-23 as well as BE 2023-24 over the BE of the previous year, the Ministry has stated that the proposed decrease in the budget of India's diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad at RE 2022-23 was based on the actual pace of expenditure. BE 2023-24 has been proposed to start at a lower base with augmentation of funds to be sought at the RE stage, at the time of requirement. This is to ensure prudent allocation of overall budget available, in particular acute oversight on establishment expenses.

2.46 On being asked whether the available funds are adequate for smooth functioning of various Embassies and Missions abroad after the devaluation of Indian Rupee vis-à-vis US Dollar, the Ministry has responded that the funds have been allocated after accounting for numerous variables that have an inflationary or deflationary impact on the costs associated with establishing embassies, such as currency exchange rates, therefore, allocated funds seem adequate to ensure the smooth operation of Missions and Posts abroad.

2.47 Elaborating on the plans of expansion in terms of establishing new Missions/Posts/Consulates/Indian Cultural Centres abroad in view of the expanding ties between India and other countries and diplomatic visits abroad, the Ministry has stated that from time to time, it formulates proposals for opening of resident Indian Missions in countries where there are no Indian Missions. Opening of Indian Missions in these countries help expand India's diplomatic footprint, deepen political relations, enable growth

of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements, facilitate stronger people-to-people contacts, bolster political outreach in multilateral fora and help garner support for India's foreign policy objectives. Resident Indian Missions also help better assist the local Indian community and protect their interests. Expansion of global and diplomatic outreach is an important element in our objective of becoming a US\$ 5 trillion economy and in boosting growth and development of the economy in line with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Out of the 18 new Missions in Africa approved by Union Cabinet in March 2018, 15 Indian Missions have been opened and operationalized. Of the remaining three, personnel have been deployed to Somalia and operationalization of our Mission in Cape Verde is at an advanced stage. Further, three new Indian Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic approved by the Cabinet in December 2020 have been operational. Personnel have also been selected for Lithuania and the Mission is expected to be operationalised soon. Further, the Ministry is in the process of expanding India's diplomatic presence in important partner countries, including in the neighborhood, the Latin American and Caribbean region, the Pacific Island region and Europe and proposals to this effect are under process.

2.48 On being asked to provide the data on countries where there are no resident Missions currently and the reasons for not having resident Missions in these countries, the Ministry has responded that India doesn't have resident Missions in 47 countries. The scope and depth of the bilateral relations with the countries where GoI does not have a resident Indian Mission or Post are regularly reviewed and Missions are opened in these countries accordingly. Opening of a resident Indian Mission or Post is a time-taking exercise requiring internal planning and approvals for logistics, deployment, infrastructure as well as coordination and liaising with the host Government. India has diplomatic engagements with those countries

(wherein resident Missions are not currently functional) through concurrent accreditation arrangements. The scope and depth of bilateral relations with these countries are regularly reviewed and Missions are opened in these countries according to need.

2.49 The Committee observe that as on 10 February 2023, 181 Indian Missions/Posts have been integrated into Passport Seva Programme through Global Passport Seva Project (GPSP). The remaining Missions/Posts to be integrated are our Mission & Consulates in Afghanistan and Embassy of India, Pyongyang, DPR Korea. When asked to state the time by which the all the Missions/Posts including Mission & Consulates in Afghanistan and Embassy of India, Pyongyang, DPR Korea are likely to be integrated into the Passport Seva Programme, the Ministry has stated that for the remaining Mission & Consulates such as in Afghanistan and Embassy of India, Pyongyang, DPR Korea, the Ministry is in touch with the concerned Mission/Post for expediting the integration process with GPSP application. Integrating Indian Missions/Posts into GPSP application will ensure that Passports and other travel documents are issued by all Indian Missions/Posts in-line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines, help standardize the processes across all Missions/Posts, help in automation and eliminate manual processing through use of digital technology, minimizing errors and expeditious processing of applications as the Missions/Posts can directly trigger and receive police verification to a particular police 'District/Thana' digitally reducing time taken for PVR and replacing the physical movements of paper reference from abroad. It also ensures anytime and anywhere access to updated information of their passport application by the passport applicants, resulting in transparency.

2.50 In their previous Reports on Demands for Grants, the Committee have been urging that centralized monitoring mechanism should be established to ensure an efficient and timely delivery of services in the

Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The Ministry had stated that Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) portal is being revamped and the newly modified portal was expected to be launched soon.

2.51 The Committee further enquired about the details of works completed on the newly modified portal on performance appraisal of Missions/Posts abroad and whether the information uploaded on the portal is likely to be accessible to anyone or only to specific users. The Ministry responded that the PEMS 2.0 (Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System) portal, a centralized online monitoring mechanism to evaluate the functioning of our Missions/Posts abroad on an annual basis, was launched in 2021. This was followed by the launch of PEMS 3.0 questionnaire in May 2022 to conduct annual evaluation of Missions/Posts for Financial Year 2021-2022. The monitoring is being done through evaluation of the responses of the Missions/Posts of a comprehensive questionnaire that includes questions related to political, economic, cultural, administrative and financial processes and consular responsibilities. The objective of the PEMS is not punitive but recommendatory in nature to improve the performance of Missions/Posts over time. The final evaluation has been done of over 95% of the 199 Missions on the portal under PEMS 3.0 that is currently underway. Most of the Missions/Posts have performed well on both PEMS 2.0 as well as PEMS 3.0. The findings of evaluation vary from Mission to Mission. Remedial actions where necessary have been suggested to the concerned Missions/Posts. The action taken by the Missions/Posts on the suggested actions is also being monitored. As far as accessibility of the information uploaded on the portal is concerned, it is limited to the concerned Mission/Post and the Ministry.

2.52 When asked to furnish the details of Missions/Posts where final evaluation through PEMS has not been done so far and the efforts being made to speed up the process in these Missions/Posts, the Ministry

has stated that the PEMS 3.0 Portal has a total of 199 Missions/Posts. 11 Missions/ Posts (out of total 199 Missions/Posts) were exempted from their evaluation for FY 2021-22 (Indian Embassies Kabul, Tripoli, Sanna, Pyongyang and Congendias Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad) and 03 Missions/Posts (Indian Embassies Tallin, Santo Domingo and Asuncion) started functioning during the second half of FY 2021-22. Final Evaluation of the remaining 188 Missions/Posts has been completed.

2.53 Regarding the concerns observed from the responses of Missions/Posts for Financial Year 2021-2022 as given in the Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System -PEMS 3.0 questionnaire in May 2022 and the remedial actions suggested based on the findings of the evaluation study as well as the response received, the Ministry has informed that based on the responses received, it has been observed that concerns were mainly observed in the areas of organizing foreign language classes, conducting Open House regularly, weeding out of old files, maintenance of various registers for record keeping of books, Cds/DVDs in the library, settlement of audit paras, sending monthly and annual commercial reports and updating electronic databases containing various details.

2.54 Depending on the concern identified, Ministry has suggested appropriate remedial measures and all Missions/ Posts have accordingly initiated necessary action. Mission/Posts have also been sharing the updated status and the same is being evaluated by the Ministry as a part of the first re-evaluation.

2.55 When enquired about the number of Missions/Posts that have taken further action on the basis of the remedial actions suggested, the Ministry has stated that 184 Missions/Posts have taken further action on the basis of remedial actions suggested by the Ministry after the Final Evaluation. 04 Mission/Posts are in the process of submitting their responses. 11

Missions/Posts have been exempted from Final Evaluation for FY 2021-22. The responses submitted by Missions/Posts are being evaluated for further improvement in their performance.

2.56 On the issue of manpower requirements and the concerns of our Missions/Posts abroad as well as the current status of manpower availability with regard to sanctioned/ required strength, the Ministry has stated that the requirements of manpower in Missions/Posts abroad are evaluated periodically and appropriate steps are taken to fulfill these requirements. The Ministry is continuously taking steps to decrease the gap between sanctioned strength and manpower availability through direct recruitment conducted by Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission.

2.57 The Committee note that an amount of Rs 3528.85 crore has been allocated in the BE 2023-24 under the Head 'Embassies and Missions' which is even lesser than the BE 2022-23 outlay of Rs. 3769.06 crore. The Ministry has stated that the allocated funds seem to be adequate to ensure the smooth operation of Missions and Posts abroad. The Committee have also been apprised that proposals for expanding India's diplomatic presence in important partner countries including in the neighbourhood, the Latin Americas and Caribbean region, the Pacific Island region and Europe are under process. In the opinion of the Committee, opening of resident Indian Missions in these countries is in line with the broad foreign policy vision of the Government to maximise India's presence abroad in the most optimal manner and to achieve our foreign policy objective of building a conducive environment for India's growth and development through partnerships with friendly countries. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to expedite the process involving logistics, deployment, and creation of infrastructure as

well as coordination and liaison with the host Governments so that resident Indian Missions are opened in these countries at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 16)

2.58 The Committee note that 181 Indian Missions/Posts have so far been integrated into the Passport Seva Programme through the Global Passport Seva Project (GPSP). This integration, the Committee understand, will enable centralised passport issuance for our citizens in India and Diaspora abroad. The Committee desire that the process of integration of the remaining Missions/posts in to the GPSP applications should be completed at the earliest for smooth, expeditious and transparent delivery of passport services. The status of integration may be communicated to the Committee within three months.

(Recommendation No. 17)

2.59 The Committee note that the Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) 2.0 portal which is a centralized online monitoring mechanism to evaluate the functioning of Missions/Posts abroad on an annual basis, was launched in 2021 followed by the launch of PEMS 3.0 questionnaire in May 2022. Out of 188 Missions/Posts evaluated through the PEM 3.0 questionnaire, 184 Missions/Posts have taken further action on the basis of remedial actions suggested by the Ministry after the Final Evaluation while 4 Mission/Posts are in the process of submitting their responses. The Committee desire that these four Missions/Posts should be pursued to submit their further action taken report expeditiously so that the responses received from them are evaluated for further

improvement in their performance. The Committee further desire that evaluation of the functioning of Indian Missions/Posts should be a continuous process and it should be the endeavour of the Ministry to bring about qualitative improvements in their performances through upgradation of the questionnaire and physical inspection, if required.

(Recommendation No. 18)

V. PASSPORT AND EMIGRATION

2.60 This Sub-Head caters to expenditure on Passport Offices, printing of travel documents including e-passports, lease/purchase of passport printers, payments to State Governments and Union Territories for verifications, expenses of pre-departure orientation and skill upgradation of emigrant workers, etc.

2.61 The allocation during BE 2022-23 was Rs. 996.67 crore, which was increased to Rs. 1154.76 crore at the RE stage. The Budgetary Allocation for BE 2023-24 has been kept at Rs. 1002.78 crore.

2.62 Explaining the rationale for enhancing the allocation for RE 2022-23 and then decreasing the BE 2023-24, the Ministry has stated that allocation at RE stage was enhanced based on pace of expenditure in the FY towards printing of travel documents including e-passports, lease/purchase of passport printers, payments to State Governments and Union Territories for verifications, expenses of pre-departure orientation and skill up-gradation of emigrant workers etc. However, the allocation at BE 2023-24 has been proposed to start from a lower base with augmentation of funds to be sought at the RE stage, at the time of requirement, as the bills/invoices related to the printing and procurement of travel documents for that year are expected

to be raised later in the FY. This is aimed towards effective cash management and to ensure revision of fund allocation at RE stage which would be based on actual pace of expenditure.

2.63 The Ministry has provided the following details of revenue earnings collected through Passport/Visa services *vis-a-vis* allocation made in BE and RE during the last three years:-

(Rupees in crore)

Minor Head	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Revenue Receipt	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Revenue Receipt	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Revenue Receipt
Visa Fee	2300.00	N.A.	1792.11	2500.00	100.00	145.96	1800.00	200.00	316.95
Receipts under Citizenship Act	415.00	N.A.	431.95	460.00	250.00	243.30	400.00	440.00	679.40

2.64 On being asked about the progress made in the work relating to establishment of PSKs/POPSKs, the amount allocated for each project during 2022-23, the details of PSKs pending due to lack of inadequate funds and completed in this financial year, the Ministry has informed that two POPSKs have so far been opened during 2022-23 taking the total number of functional POPSKs to 430. With this, the total number of Passport Kendras operational in the country for the benefit of the citizens is 559 as on 10th February, 2023. In order to enhance ease in obtaining passports and reduce hardships, the Ministry, in association with Department of Posts (DoP), has

announced in January, 2017 for opening of Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) in each Parliamentary constituency where there is no Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) or Post office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK). An amount of Rs 3 lakh is provided to Department of Posts for each POPSK for the development of civil and electrical infrastructure. MEA procures IT and non IT infrastructure and also pays for operations and support. There were no PSKs/POPSKs pending due to lack of funds in this financial year. Lack of fund is not the reasons for delay in opening of POPSKs.

2.65 When asked to provide the details of Parliamentary constituencies where there is no PSK/POPSK at present and whether the Ministry has any plan to open PSK/POPSK in such constituencies in the current year, the Ministry has provided the list of Parliamentary constituencies where there is no PSK/POPSK at Annexure I. As per MoU signed between Department of Posts (DoP) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), DoP shall provide space in Post Office at mutually agreed locations as per availability and feasibility. MEA is coordinating closely with DoP to get the space in remaining constituencies to open POPSK. 4 POPSKs in Lok Sabha Constituencies - Guna, Ettawah, Alibaugh and Nandurbur are likely to be opened in the current year.

2.66 Regarding the efforts being made/contemplated by the Ministry to overcome the challenge of identifying locations by Department of Posts for opening of the remaining POPSKs, the Ministry has stated that it decided, in association with the Department of Posts, in January 2017 to open Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK) in each Parliamentary constituency where there is no Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) or POPSK. Ministry regularly takes up the matter with Department of Posts requesting

to provide suitable locations for opening of POPSK. As per the MoU signed in this regard, DoP shall provide 300 Sq. ft. to 1000 Sq. ft. space in Post Office at mutually agreed locations as per availability and feasibility. The MoU clearly states the terms and conditions for providing suitable space by Department of Posts to the Passport Department for opening of POPSK.

2.67 The details of qualitative improvements that have been made in passport services during 2022-23 is as under:-

1. Processing the applications for PCC on Post-Police Verification basis in cases where the current passport was issued within one year prior to the submission of PCC application after receiving clear Police verification report i.e tweaked the process to make PCC quicker.
2. The PCCs are now being issued under stamp signatures instead of ink signatures so that the man hours so saved could be utilized for more productive work.
3. High Priority was accorded to passport applications received from prospective Haj Pilgrims after receiving information from the Haj Committee of India that the process of submitting Haj applications had been commenced. A Circular to this effect was issued to all the PIAs in India on 18th January, 2023.
4. Clear guidelines have been issued regarding documents required for processing of passport applications of in-country adopted children under HAMA 1956 and JJ Act 2015. If adoption is done under JJ Act 2015, the applicant has to produce court order or certified copy thereof. Whereas, if adoption is done under HAMA 1956, the applicant has to produce registered or notarized deed except for the case when adoption is done under section 9(4) of the HAMA 1956, in which a court order is mandatory.
5. Centralized granting (approval) facility for better resource management ensuring greater productivity.

6. Out of 826 Police Districts, 793 Districts have been integrated into PSP system. In addition, mPassport Police App have been launched in 24 State/UT for expeditious submission of PVRs.

7. Cross granting of applications to address shortage of manpower at a particular PSK/POPSK.

8. Recognizing the need to continually improve the quality of Government to Citizen (G2C) services and the mantra of Good Governance via IT and digital media, the Passport Seva Programme V2.0 would be embarking on technology upgrade with the use of Biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-Bot, Auto-response, Natural Language Processing, Cloud Enablement. The issuance of e-Passports for enhanced customer satisfaction, increased security and next level of citizen experience will also be unveiled during 2022-23.

2.68 The service delivery of passports in terms of 'Normal' and 'Tatkaal' passports to applicants is given below. The Ministry has also stated that there has been considerable improvements in delivery of passports to applicants.

Type of Passport	2021 (in Days)	2022 (in Days)
Normal (excluding PV time)	15	8
Tatkaal (excluding PV time)	1	1
DPC/Cam Mode (excluding PV time)	25	20
Average Police Verification Time	18	15

2022-23.

2.69 Regarding the steps proposed to be taken to bring down the average time taken in police verification and issuance of Normal passports, the Ministry has stated that to speed up Police Verification even beyond district police headquarter model under PSP, Ministry has introduced mPassport Police App in 24 State/UT which has reduced the police verification time to 5 days. RPOs are in regular touch with State police authorities to fastrack the

police verification, especially introduction of mPassport Police App.

2.70. On being asked whether the outreach of passport services has been catering to far flung areas of North East and other hilly terrains and new PSKs/POPSKs established in those areas during the last three years, the Ministry has responded that it has been the endeavor of the Ministry to set up PSK/POPSK in the hilly and far flung areas of northern India including North East. As many as 14 POPSKs have been established in the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur during the year 2018-19. One POPSK at Dharmanagar in Tripura was opened during the year 2019-20. These are in addition to 8 PSKs already functional in North Eastern region. Besides, one POPSK has been established in the State of Uttarakhand during the year 2018-19. A total of 4 PSK and 18 POPSK are functioning in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh. One PSK and 6 POPSK are functioning in Himachal Pradesh and one PSK and 6 POPSK are functioning in Uttarakhand. 2 PSKs and 5 POPSK are functioning in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and 1 POPSK is functioning in the UT of Ladakh. 1 POPSK is opened in Port Blair during the year 2020-21. In 2022-23, two more POPSKs were opened in Supaul, Bihar and Vasai, Maharashtra.

2.71 The Committee enquired about the Grievance Redressal Mechanism related to passport services and the response time for redressal of grievances. The Ministry has submitted that Passport Seva Programme strives to provide efficient services to Indian citizens in a timely manner so that there is no need of raising a grievance. The mechanism available for redressal of passport services related grievances is as follows:

- a) Public Inquiry Officer: Applicant may meet the designated Public Inquiry Officer in the Passport Offices after taking prior appointment through online portal with their registered ID.
- b) CPGRAMS PORTAL: An applicant may register a grievance through

CPGRAMS portal (www.pg.portal.gov.in) and tracks the status online. The Public Grievances received under this portal are dealt in a prompt manner to resolve the matter at the earliest and in case, redressal is not possible within the prescribed time-frame due to circumstances beyond the control of the Passport Office (such as sub-judice matters/policy issues, etc.), an interim reply is sent to the complainant.

c) Grievances received By E-mail: Applicants may also submit their grievances through e-mail directly to the Passport Offices. The details about these are provided in website at www.passportindia.gov.in.

d) Telephonic Inquiry: All Passport Offices have separate telephone lines to reply to public queries. The details of these are available in website at www.passportindia.gov.in. Apart from this, a round the clock Toll Free Number (1800-258-1800) is also available for providing any information on Passport services including basic information about documentation and how to apply for the passport.

e) By Twitter: Public grievances are also attended and replied to through Twitter handle.

f) Grievance/Feedback on website: In the website www.passportindia.gov.in, under Grievance/Feedback column, applicants may also write their grievances directly to the concerned Passport Office(s).

g) By Post: Grievances and suggestions are also accepted through post from public in the individual Passport Offices and at Public Grievance Cell of Ministry of External Affairs. The average disposal time for redressal of the public Grievances related to passport services is 18 days.

2.72 When enquired whether the Ministry would make further efforts to bring down the average grievance redressal time, the Ministry has informed that it would make all efforts to reduce the grievance redressal time to minimum. According to guidelines of Department of Administrative Reforms

and Public Grievances (DARPG) on the subject, public grievances shall be redressed and disposed of within 30 days of receipt, PSP Division strives to achieve the same within an average period of 15 days. Efforts are being made in this regard by streamlining the grievances redressal procedures and by sensitizing the concerned officials.

2.73 Regarding the details and status of the e-passport project and the challenges being faced in this regard, the Ministry has stated that e-Passport, which is the Ministry's flagship programme, is a combined paper and electronic passport with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Chip and an antenna embedded as an inlay. The passport's critical information will be printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip. The characteristics of the document and the chip are as per the specifications of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as mentioned in its Document 9303.

2.74 The main benefit of the e-Passport is its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of its data. Since the e-Passport has the data in printed form on the booklet, as well as encrypted in the chip, it makes it harder to forge and thereby it is expected to increase the level of confidence in the Indian Passport. E-Passports would also facilitate the ease of travel for Indian citizens, making their interface with immigration authorities much smoother. Since ICAO has recommended its introduction by member countries, the introduction of Indian e-Passport would be in consonance with global best practices and also in tune with the 'Digital India' initiative of the Government of India.

2.75 For the e-Passport Project, National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the technical partner of MEA and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporation (NICSI) is the system integrator. A Tripartite Agreement among MEA, NIC and NICSI has been signed for implementation of this

project.

2.76 ISP Nashik has placed an order for 4.5 crore chips and has started production of e-Passport blank booklets. The entire quantity of 4.50 crore chips will be sufficient to produce e-Passport booklets to meet demand for the next 4 to 5 years. For the first year, Ministry has placed an indent for 70 lakh e-Passport booklets with India Security Press, Nashik.

2.77 As with the launch of any new technology, with complex technical infrastructure and participation of multiple stakeholders, the e-Passport Project involves several challenges. Its simultaneous launch on both PSP Version 1.0 and PSP Version 2.0, as also given the limitation of Version 1.0's technical ability to take on the additional load are other challenges. For these reasons, it is planned that in the first stage only the pilot of the project will be launched.

2.78 On further asked the efforts being made to overcome the said challenges, the Ministry has stated that the e-Passport Project involves setting up of complex technical ecosystem, including Public Key Infrastructure, Key Management System, Inter-operability test bed, Project Management Unit, e-Personalization, as also creation of e-Passport verification set-up at Immigration Check Points by Bureau of Immigration. Although the resource mobilization for e-Passport project is scheduled to be completed by 1 June 2023, MEA has been coordinating with all the stakeholders of the Project for its early and smooth launch. It is proposed that in the first stage only the pilot of the Project will be launched. Once PSP Version 2.0 is launched, which has the technical ability to take on the additional load, the e-Passport Project will be rolled out in stages at all Passport Offices across India and at Missions/Posts abroad.

2.79 Regarding the date by which the Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0 is likely to be launched, the Ministry has stated that the tentative date for Go-live for PSP V2.0 is 7th July 2023.

2.80 The Committee enquired about the impact of mPassport Police App so far in expediting Police Verification Reports and the extent to which this App is being used in the 24 State/UTs where it has been launched. The Ministry has stated that wherever mPassport Police App is launched by the concerned State/UT, the police verification report (PVR) is received within 3-5 working days. This reduces the overall issuance time for Passports. The App is used extensively by 24 States/UTs wherever it is launched.

2.81 When asked about the time by which mPassport Police App is likely to be launched in the remaining States/UTs for expeditious submission of PVRs, the Ministry has informed that the respective Passport Officers wherever the mPassport Police App is not yet launched, are coordinating with the State/UT police to expedite the same for procurement of Tab with internet connection, identification of officials, etc. The central support team from PSP Division is providing all required assistance in terms of configuration of the Tab, creation of user IDs for Thana level police users using Tab, mapping of Police Stations, providing training, handholding, etc.

2.82 On a query regarding timeline for integration of the remaining police districts into the PSP system, the Ministry has stated that integration of district police with PSP system is a decision taken by the concerned State Government and in some of the sensitive States, State Government prefers to do the police verification digitally at State capital and beyond State police headquarters through their internal mechanism.

2.83 When asked to give an overview of the integration of DigiLocker with Passport Seva Programme and the number of applicants who have utilized the facility ever since its launch, the Ministry has stated that the

DigiLocker is a key initiative under Digital India. DigiLocker is a platform for issuance and verification of documents/certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents. The integration of Passport Seva Project (PSP) application with DigiLocker has started since 26.01.2021. Currently, citizens can submit/upload the proof of address, proof of date of birth, and documents required for ECNR passport through DigiLocker during online filing of their applications and do not require to carry the original documents. This has not only helped in reduction of paperwork but has also helped in verifying the documents in the source database, thus resulting in the expeditious delivery of passport services to the citizens. The number of applicants who have utilized the Digilocker facility ever since its launch is 16,69,335.

2.84 The Committee enquired about the constraints being faced in the implementation and expansion of the Passport Seva Programme and the steps initiated to overcome the same, the Ministry has stated that the Passport Seva Project (PSP) went 'live' in June 2012 with the opening of 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) as prescribed in the Request for Proposal (RFP)/ Master Service Agreement (MSA) between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Service Provider M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Thereafter, the Ministry has opened another 16 PSKs and 430 POPSKs till date functioning as the extended arms of the 36 Passport Offices in the country in rendering passport related services today. More POPSKs are expected to be made operational in future. The challenge being faced by the Ministry in the expansion of the PSP is the shortage of personnel in the Central Passport Organization (CPO). Another challenge is identifying locations by Department of Posts for POPSKs for opening of remaining 51 POPSKs.

2.85 Regarding the actual sanctioned strength and actual working strength of the Central Passport Organization (CPO), the Ministry has stated that the sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organisation is 2741 and the actual working strength of the CPO cadre is 1749 as on 01.02.2023. In addition, 21 outsourced personnel to be hired on contractual basis (including 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff) was approved by the Union Cabinet for the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. The Group-wise break up of total 992 vacancies is as under:

	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
Group 'A'	226	189	37
Group 'B' Gazetted	565	358	207
Group 'B' Non-Gazetted and Group 'C'	1950	1202	748
Grand Total	2741	1749	992

2.86 The Committee observe that the shortage of the actual working strength of the Central Passport cadre is still 36%. Despite its recommendation, the induction of personnel is not promising even during the last year. When asked the manner in which the Ministry is actually planning to address this issue, the Ministry has stated the sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organisation is 2741 and the actual working strength of the CPO cadre is 1749 as on 01.02.2023. In view of shortage of staff in CPO cadre, the following measures have been taken: -

(I) As Direct Recruitment is carried out by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), all the indents have been timely and regularly placed by the Ministry to SSC as and when called for. Vacancies upto the year 2023 have been

indented to SSC. Result of Vacancy year 2021 is expected in March 2023 and 151 officials are expected to join by April 2023. SSC has expedited the recruitment process after instructions from higher levels.

(II) Promotions through Department Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings are being carried out timely. For the vacancy year 2023, 86 Junior Passport Assistant (JPA) were promoted to the post of Senior Passport Assistant (SPA) and 05 Assistant Superintendent were promoted to the post of Superintendent on 30.12.2022. Also, 140 vacancies have been filled up in the grade of Senior Superintendent on ad-hoc basis as a temporary measure due to various court cases pending.

(III) Promotions through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for the post of JPA and SPA are conducted by SSC. All the indents are being placed by the Ministry to SSC as and when called for. Result of the LDCE for promotion to the post of Assistant Superintendent from SPA, which was conducted by the Ministry for 96 vacancies on 01.10.2022 is likely to be declared soon subject to the final order by Hon'ble CAT, Delhi, which had stayed the declaration of result.

2. 87 The Ministry has further stated that it is taking all remedial measures to filling up the vacancies as per the procedure laid down by the Government.

2.88 The Committee note that the BE 2023-24 under the Head 'Passport and Emigration' has been kept at Rs 1002.78 crore which is even lesser than the RE 2022-23 allocation of Rs. 1154.76 crore. In this regard, the Ministry has stated that the proposal is to start from a lower base with augmentation of funds to be sought at the RE stage as the bills/invoices related to the printing and procurement of travel documents for that year are expected to be raised later in the Financial Year only. The Committee feel that anticipated

expenditure should have been accounted for in the BE stage itself. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure that lack of funds do not impede the delivery of passport related services as well as the scheduled launch of the e-Passport Project in the current year. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should maintain smooth and efficient utilisation of funds from the beginning of the Financial Year itself so that based on the pace of expenditure, augmentation of Budgetary Allocation may be got concurred by the Ministry of Finance.

(Recommendation No. 19)

2.89 The Committee observe that in addition to 430 POPSKs operational in the country, 4 POPSKs in the Lok Sabha Constituencies of Guna, Ettawah, Aliburg and Nandurbar are likely to be opened in the current year. The Committee urge the Ministry to expedite the process of opening these POPSKs in the said Constituencies. The Ministry should also maintain regular follow-up with the Department of Posts for allotment of space so that POPSKs are opened in all the remaining Parliamentary Constituencies in the country where PSK or POPSK have not been opened as yet.

(Recommendation No. 20)

2.90 The Committee note that the Ministry's Flagship Programme, e-Passport Project is facing several challenges which include, complex technical infrastructure and participation of multiple stakeholders; technical limitation of PSP version 1.0's ability to take on the additional load, etc. The Committee understand that the Ministry is now proposing to launch only the pilot of the project in the first stage. Once the PSP Version 2.0, which has the technical ability to

take on the additional load is launched, e-Passport will be rolled out in stages at all passport offices across India and at Missions/Posts abroad. The tentative date for Go-live for PSPV 2.0 is 7 July 2023. The Committee desire that the Ministry should maintain close coordination with all the stakeholders and get the technical concerns resolved for smooth/ early launch of the e-Passport Project. The progress in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 21)

2.91 The Committee note that mPassport Police App for the expeditious submission of Police Verification Report (PVR) has been launched in 24 States/UT. In States/UT where the App has been launched, the PVR is received within 3-5 working days. Since the use of the mPassport Police App reduces the overall issuance time for passports, the Committee urge the Ministry to pursue the remaining States/UTs vigorously so that the mPassport Police App is launched by them without further delay. The Ministry and its Passport Offices may also extend all the needed assistance in terms of infrastructure and technical expertise/training to the police Departments of these States/UTs for its early launch in all the States and UTs in the country.

(Recommendation No. 22)

2.92 The Committee understand that the integration of the Passport Seva Program with DigiLocker in 2021 is a major digital transformation in the delivery of Passport Services in India. DigiLocker, a key initiative under Digital India is a platform for issuance and verification of documents/certificates in a digital way thereby eliminating the use of physical documents. Since the

integration of Passport Seva Project with DigiLocker, a total of 16,69,335 applicants have utilized the facility. The Committee understand that the DigiLocker facility has helped in reduction of paper work and verifying the documents in the source database, which in turn results in expeditious delivery of passport services to the citizens and hence, urge the Ministry to disseminate awareness regarding the DigiLocker facility on a country-wide basis.

(Recommendation No. 23)

2.93 The Committee note that out of the sanctioned strength of 2741 personnel in Central Passport Organisation (CPO) cadre, the working strength is only 1749 personnel resulting in 992 vacancies. This shortage of 36% personnel in CPO is also one of the major challenges being faced by the Ministry in the expansion of the Passport Seva Programme. The Committee had recommended, in their previous Reports on Demands for Grants that the issue of human resource constraints in CPO should be taken up with the Department of Personnel and Training. However, not much progress has been made in this regard. The Committee feel that as the Passport Seva Programme is the largest citizen-centric project in the MEA, the Ministry should impress upon the DoPT of the urgency for filling up the vacancies in CPO at the earliest. The Ministry may also continue to take all remedial measures within the Department to ensure that shortage of personnel do not hamper the smooth and efficient implementation of the Passport Seva Programme.

(Recommendation No. 24)

VI. PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS

2.94 The Protector of Emigrants (PoE) is responsible for granting emigration clearance to the intending emigrants as per the procedure prescribed under the Emigration Act, 1983. The PoE shall perform the functions assigned to them by this Act under the general superintendence and control of the Protector General of Emigrants. In order to facilitate his duties, the PoEs are provided with requisite staff and other amenities.

2.95 The duties of PoE include:

- (a) To protect and aid with his advice all intending emigrants and emigrants.
- (b) Oversee all the provisions of the Emigration Act
- (c) Inquire into the treatment received by emigrants during their voyage or journey to, and during the period of their residence in the country to which they emigrated and also during the return voyage or journey to India and report thereon to the Protector General of Emigrants or such other authority as may be prescribed.
- (d) Other miscellaneous work including liasoning with State Government and affiliated bodies on matters related to emigration.

2.96 When enquired whether the MEA has any plan to set up offices of Protector of Emigrants in migration hot spots in the country, the Ministry has informed that there are currently 14 offices of the Protector of Emigrants (POEs) located at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Raebareli, Patna, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Ranchi, from where large number of migrant workers go abroad for employment purposes under blue-collar category/Nurses/DSWs. With an aim

to widen overseas employment opportunities and safe & legal migration, this Division has been working on the opening of new PoE offices in the States of Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand, in consultation with the State authorities concerned. Among these, approval of Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) for opening of PoE offices in Tripura and Bhubaneswar has already been obtained and approval for opening of PoE office in Gujarat is under process.

2.97 The following table depicts the number of applications for grant of emigration clearances (ECs) received during the last three years:

Year	EC applications received
2020	1,00,741
2021	1,41,413
2022	3,87,363
2023 (as on 7 February 2023)	41,598

2.96 Total number of ECS approved through e-Migrate as on 7 February 2023: 32,61,229. Total ECS pending as on 7 February 2023: 10,602

2.98 On being asked to state the criteria for grant of such clearances and average time taken in this regard, the Ministry has stated that the Emigration Clearances are granted on the basis of submission of requisite documents like Visas, Work Contract, Educational Qualifications, Insurance (Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojna). There is a standardised SOP for grant of ECs. The Central Processing Cell in New Delhi does the initial processing of the EC applications submitted through e-Migrate, after which the final decision to grant/reject/modify the EC application is taken by the jurisdictional PoEs. Average time taken in granting the ECs is 3 days.

2.99 Regarding the steps being taken to expedite clearance of the pending

ECS, the Ministry has stated that emigration clearances are done on day to day basis and none kept pending unless for want of relevant papers. Through PoE offices, the RA concerned is notified of their deficiency and they revert through mail or in person to rectify the same, upon which the clearance of the cases kept on hold are cleared the next day itself or rejected, if found ineligible. On 7th February 2023, the possibility of cases being shown as pending might be for a short while only. Till 23rd February 2023, 5192 EC applications are pending in e-Migrate system.

2.100 The Committee note that the Protector of Emigrants (PoEs), responsible for granting emigration clearance to the intending emigrants performs the functions assigned to them under the Emigration Act, 1983. Presently, there are 14 offices of the PoE located at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Rai Barelli, Patna, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Ranchi. The Ministry has also stated that the setting up of new PoE offices in the States of Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Gujarat and Uttarakhand is underway, in consultation with the State authorities concerned. In view of the fact that large number of blue collar workers, nurses, DSWs, etc. migrate abroad for employment every year, the Committee desire that the process of setting up new PoE offices should be completed at the earliest for facilitating and providing protection to the intending migrant workers as well as emigrants . The Committee also urge the Ministry to identify the migration hot spots in the country and open PoE offices in such locations.

(Recommendation No. 25)

CHAPTER –III

OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Overseas Indian Affairs Division I&II deals with the issues relating to engagement with the Indian Diaspora. In the BE 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 13.21 crore is allocated under the Sub Head 'Welfare of Overseas Indians' and another Rs. 37crore under the Sub Head 'Engagement with Indian Diaspora'.

3.2 The following table shows the allocations made at BE and RE 2021-22 and 2022-23 and Actuals 2021-22 and 2022-23 (upto January2023):-

(Rs. in crore)

05	Welfare of Overseas Indians	BE 2021-22	RE 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actual 2022-23 - up to Jan 2023	BE 2023-24
05.0	Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill Upgradation of Emigrant Worker	7.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00
05.0	Evacuation of Indian due to War/Civil Disturbance	3.00	11.00	11.58	3.00	93.96	0.06	10.00

05.03	Repatriation of Indian Destitutes	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
05.04	Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriages	0.12	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05
05.05	Legal Counseling/Assistance to Indian workers In the Gulf	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.15
	Total	10.28	13.21	11.58	6.21	97.17	0.06	13.21
14	Engagement with Indian Diaspora							
14.02	Know India Programme	7.00	3.50	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.91	7.00
14.03	Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children	10.00	15.00	8.33	10.00	9.00	3.39	9.00
14.04	Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora	2.00	2.00	1.24	3.00	3.00	0.26	4.00
14.05	Awareness Campaign/Media Plan	2.00	3.00	0.90	5.50	1.00	0.23	2.00
14.06	Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	20.00	5.00	0.45	10.00	30.00	9.45	15.00
	Total	41.0	28.5	10.93	35.	46.0	14.2	37.0

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I. Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT)

3.3 PDOT programmes, which commenced in 2018, are aimed at enhancing soft skills of Indian migrant workers largely going to the Gulf region and Malaysia, in terms of culture, language, tradition and local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitize migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and various Government programmes for their welfare and protection. The initiative is being expanded further.

3.4 The Ministry launched online PDOT in April 2021 to reach out to prospective emigrants who live far away from PDOT centres. There has been a very positive response from participants especially women participants. This initiative is helping in delivering training for more migrants as in-person training was almost stopped during COVID-19 pandemic last year. Ministry proposes to continue online PDOT training post COVID and provide both online and in-person training options to prospective emigrants. As of now, 32 PDOT centres are operational in 29 cities of 15 States (Delhi, UP, Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka). Out of the 32 PDOT Centres opened by MEA in collaboration with MSDE and the State Governments, 14 centres are managed by NSDC and 18 by State Government Agencies. During the current financial year, the Ministry has approved the opening of 58 additional centres in 8 States. As on 31 January 2023, PDO Training to 1,24,633 prospective emigrants has been imparted.

3.5 The Budget allocation of Rs. 7 crore was made at BE 2021-22 which was revised to Rs. 2 crore at RE stage but actual expenditure shows 'nil' expenditure for the PDOT. Similarly, Rs. 3 crore was allocated at BE 2022-23 and it was kept at same level of RE stage but till January 31, 2023 not a single amount has been spent for this purpose.

3.6 The details of the 58 new PDOT centres approved by the Government in 2022-23 is given below:-

States	PDOT Centre
Rajasthan	Udaipur, Churu, Jhunjhunu
Telangana	Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Kamareddy, Nirmal
	Adilabad
Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam, Chittoor
Tamil Nadu	Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, Karur, Trichy, Salem, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Vellore
Karnataka	Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru (Mangalore), Belagavi (Belgaum)
Haryana	Palwal, Karnal, Yamuna Nagar, Kaithal, Ambala,
	Hisar, Mahendragarh
Uttar Pradesh	Bijnor, Deoria, Maharajganj, Kushinagar
Punjab	Amritsar, Barnala, Bathinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Pathankot, Patiala, Rupnagar, SBS Nagar, Sangrur, Mohali, Taran

3.7 Regarding the status of operationalization of these centres, the Committee have been informed that these centres will be operated in collaboration with the Governments of States concerned. Approvals have been conveyed to the State Governments and demands for funds have been sought from them. So far, funds demanded by the Government of Telangana for operating 5 centres have been released. The Ministry continues to follow up with them to operationalize all of these centres at the earliest.

3.8 During the deliberations on Demands for Grants of the Ministry on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary apprised the Committee regarding the Pre- orientation programme for students going abroad as under:

".....when Indian students travel to various destinations, each embassy has to do an orientation programme for them. They call them to the embassy. They orient them to the local rules. They provide facilitation to meet their challenges.....We will somehow come together, find an answer, present it to them in a manner that that works for them. This is, what we call as, pre-orientation programme, before they join their institutes".

3.9 When the Committee pointed out that Indian Embassies do not possess the details and addresses of students abroad, the Foreign Secretary responded as under:

".....We now have a structured system wherein every time before the start of an academic year, Embassies have to do an outreach or an introduction or a familiarization programme, which they do and they do it very seriously. They build a database of students. But I must mention here that many of the students do not want themselves to be registered with the Embassy. We faced this crisis, particularly in Ukraine, during the Ukraine crisis. We tried to contact students. Many of them were reluctant to register themselves with the Embassy. It is a constant effort. We even organize registration camps and online campaigns. We also do this through our two portals, that is, Rishta Portal and Madad Portal. Essentially, one is to connect and do an outreach. The other is to listen to the grievances. But at the end, one of the key purposes which they serve is to build a database of those people who connect with us through Rishta portal and ones who connect with us through Madad portal. Generally, on the registration of Indian nationals abroad and, particularly on the registration of Indian students abroad, this thing happens between us because many of them are reticent of many of them agree as to what to do".

3.10 The Foreign Secretary further highlighted the efforts being made to monitor Indian nationals migrating abroad for their welfare as under:

".....we are also looking at another element which is crucial for our people. A lot of Indian nationals travel abroad. But there are two kinds of people. One, who go to those countries where there is a greater possibility of exploitation. Other go to developed

countries where they are needed. So, two migrations are very different. People who go to Gulf are different from the people who go to Australia and different from people who go to the USA. Our effort is to build a system of monitoring which allows both of these spaces to grow, which prevents them from exploitation and is not too restrictive but at the same time, also freeze up those people who want to migrate out for better opportunities, based on their skill, based on their talent and based on where the skill and talent has demand overseas. So, that is another thing we are working on. We also do community welfare activities in all our missions through the Indian Community Welfare Fund which is a large corpus of fund. Our effort has been to progressively liberalise it”.

II. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

3.11 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is the flagship event of the Government and is celebrated on 9th January every two years to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India’s freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. Theme-based PBD Conferences are also held during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders. These conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields. So far, we have had 17 editions of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations.

3.12 The Budgetary Estimates for 2021-22 for celebration for Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was Rs. 20 crore which was revised to Rs. 5.00 crore at RE stage but actual expenditure was only Rs. 0.45 crore during that period. Similarly, BE 2022-23 for this purpose was Rs. 10 crore. At RE stage it was revised to Rs. 30 crore but upto January 31, 2023 only Rs. 9.45 crore has been spent so far. The BE for 2023-24 has been kept at Rs. 15.00 crore.

3.13 The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organised from 08-10 January 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh with the theme "*Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal*". The three day Convention held special significance as it was organized as a physical event after a gap of four years and the first physical Convention of Pravasis after the onset of COVID -19 pandemic. The Convention witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Overseas Indians from nearly 70 countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released a Commemorative Postal Stamp 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' underlining the importance of safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration and inaugurated the first-ever digital PBD Exhibition on the theme "*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle*" to highlight the contribution of our diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence. The 17th PBD Convention was an overwhelming success in terms of renewing the bonding and connect with the Diaspora, and laying the foundation for their participation and contribution to the growth and development of India in the 'Amrit Kaal.'

3.14 On being asked about the level of participation of all sections of the Indian Diaspora including unskilled workers and the outcome of the said Convention, the Ministry has stated that the 17th PBD Convention held special significance as it was organized as a physical event after a gap of four years and the first physical Convention of Pravasis after the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. The Convention witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 3500 overseas Indians from about 70 countries. The participants included Politicians, Businessmen, Professionals, Academicians, Scientists, Doctors, Workers, School children and media persons. The 17th PBD Convention was also the first ever Convention with presence of two Heads of State, Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Special Guest of Honour, H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, the President of the Republic of Suriname. There was also senior Ministerial level participation from other countries, including Panama, Mauritius, and Malaysia. The participants included more than 800 businessmen, 500 professionals (doctors, engineers, lawyers, Information Technology, etc), and a sizeable number of unskilled workers and school children. This included, for the first time, a delegation of over 200 students and 100 blue collar workers from schools and companies in the UAE.

3.15 The 17th PBD Convention was an overwhelming success in terms of renewing the bonding and connect with the Diaspora after an interval of four years, and laying the foundation for their participation and contribution to the growth and development of India in the 'Amrit Kaal.' Some of the key outcomes of the Convention are listed below:

- In line with the theme of the PBD Convention "*Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal*", five thematic Plenary sessions were organised with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders. The Sessions, chaired at Ministerial level, deliberated on how Diaspora can contribute to the growth of India in sectors such as innovation and new technologies, health-care, global mobility of Indian workforce and entrepreneurship for inclusive development. These Plenary sessions have generated set of action points, which are being shared with the Ministries concerned and other stakeholders from the sector.
- First ever Digital PBD exhibition on the theme "*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle*" was organised to highlight the contribution of our diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence. The exhibition attracted thousands of Diaspora members and Indian nationals and was a much talked about attraction during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore. The exhibition is a permanent exhibition and will be relocated to a venue to be decided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The exhibition is first such permanent exhibition dedicated to the role of Diaspora freedom fighters in Indian freedom struggle.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister released Commemorative Postal Stamp on '*Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen*' during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. The release of stamp at senior-most level of leadership underlined the importance attached by the Government to safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration. This will further strengthen the efforts of Ministry to educate our skilled and semi-skilled workers on various aspects of migration.
- The PBD Convention also contributed to trade and investment promotion efforts, as leaders from several countries were accompanied with large business and trade delegations, which subsequently participated in the 7th edition of Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit organised by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Convention also provided a platform for Indian businessmen to interact with Diaspora community and explore opportunities in business and other sectors.
- On the sidelines of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, as part of efforts to transform India into the Skill Hub for the world, the National Skill Development Council of India (NSDCI) signed two MOUs

with Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners Association (PRIMAS) and Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KLSICCI) to boost India's skilled workforce job opportunities in Malaysia.

- The PBD Convention was a milestone for tourism sector in Madhya Pradesh, with thousands of Diaspora members visiting monuments, parks and religious sites in the State. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board signed eight MOUs with chapters of the Global Organisation of People Of Indian Origin aimed at developing cooperation for promotion of tourism opportunities in Madhya Pradesh, and making Diaspora an active partner in tourism promotion efforts.

III. Know India Programme (KIP)

3.16 Know India Programme was launched in 2003 for the Indian Diaspora between the age group of 18-30 years. The purpose of the KIP is to familiarize the PIO youths (People of Indian Origin) with their roots and contemporary India, through a three week orientation programme and provide them an exposure to the country of their origin. It also aims to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication and information technology and culture.

3.17 This is a flagship scheme of Government of India to reconnect young Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) with their motherland and inspire them by giving them exposure to the ongoing socio-economic transformation in India, as well as various aspects of contemporary India's forms of art, heritage and culture. Since 2003, Ministry has so far conducted 65 editions of KIP, with participation of 2296 PIO youth from 47 countries. KIP has so far been organised in partnership with 22 States & Union Territories. The Know India Programme was resumed in 2022-23 after a gap of two years due to pandemic, and six editions of KIP have taken place in partnership with the States of Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

IV. Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD)

3.18 The details of budgetary allocations under the PCTD scheme are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2021-22	2.00	2.00	1.24
2022-23	3.00	3.00	0.26 (upto Jan, 2023)
2023-24	4.00		

*up to December 2022

3.19 Under this scheme, a new initiative "Felicitation of Armed Forces Veterans Abroad" to engage retired veterans from Indian Armed Forces has been taken by the Ministry. Felicitation events organised by Indian Missions in US and Canada received enthusiastic response from the Diaspora.

3.20 When further asked about the details of the Armed Forces veterans felicitated by our Indian Missions in US and Canada, the Ministry has informed that the initiative under PCTD to engage retired veterans from Indian Armed Forces by organising "Felicitation of Armed Forces Veterans Abroad" is usually implemented by the Defence Wings of our Missions. These 'Varistha Yodhha'/'Yodhha Samman Divas' events include recalling the service and sacrifice of our distinguished veterans, and honoring veterans and their spouses with presentation of mementoes. Such events have so far been organised by Missions/Posts in US, Canada and Australia and have seen, besides veterans and their families, participation of diaspora leaders and local political leadership.

3.21 The Committee have observed that the Ministry is seen to have taken several initiatives over the recent years to facilitate active involvement of leading academicians and scientists from the Diaspora in enhancing India's educational, scientific and technological capacities and enquired about the outcome in this regard. They have been informed that the Government of India has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate active engagement of leading Diaspora academicians and scientists to the scientific and technological development of India. In October 2020, a virtual *Vaishwaik Bharatiya Vaigyanik* (VAIBHAV) Summit was organised to develop a comprehensive roadmap for leveraging expertise and knowledge of global Indian scientific community. More than 2600 diaspora scientists and academicians from 71 countries attended the summit, which identified 18

verticals (areas) and 80 horizontals (subjects) to develop collaboration. Department of Science and Technology is working towards announcing VAIBHAV Fellowships programme for collaboration projects identified under the VAIBHAV initiative.

3.22 The “*Global Initiative of Academic Networks*” (GIAN) is aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources and scientific and technological capacity. The GIAN network has primarily been availed by diaspora academicians and scientists, and till date, 2163 collaboration projects have been approved under the GIAN scheme, and 1716 projects have been completed.

3.23 A new portal PRABHASS (*Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark - Integrating Indian Diaspora with the Mother Land*) has been developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as a virtual platform to bring on board the Global Indian S&T Community, connecting more than 6000 Diaspora members. The portal maintains an active dialogue with leading academicians and scientists from the Diaspora, and has resulted in a few collaborations.

3.24 Regarding the manner in which the Ministry proposes to put forth the soft power diplomacy of Indian Diaspora for facilitating India's growth, the Committee have been informed that Ministry of External Affairs realises that Indian Diaspora has been an important resource for India's soft power projections, and plays an important role in facilitating Indian culture and values abroad. Indian Diaspora has economic and political influence in their host countries, and works as a soft power in building, influencing and strengthening the relationship between the home and the host country.

3.25 Cultural propagation and promotion abroad has always been a key priority of the Government and much of the cultural penetration on the ground has actually been achieved because of the activities and efforts of the strong Diaspora. Indian cuisine, over the years, has emerged amongst the most popular cuisine globally, credit of which goes majorly to the Diaspora. Ministry of External Affairs through its programme Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora provides financial grants for organizing Diaspora events which popularizes Indian cuisine, culture, festivals, entertainment, art forms and various other elements of Indian heritage where Indian associations/organizations also play an important role. Diaspora is an

active partner in 'Festival of India' and other major cultural celebrations organised by Indian Missions/Posts abroad, often with the support of Ministry of Culture. Besides this, Ministry has several programmes/schemes in place to engage Diaspora, including Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences, Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Know India Programme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children, and Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz. Ministry has also launched an outreach platform called the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal (RISHTA portal) to have a direct connect with the Indian Diaspora across the globe.

3.26 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) plays a key role in the promotion of India's soft power abroad. It supplements the efforts of MEA to leverage Indian Diaspora in soft power projection. Missions abroad maintain close contact with Indian Diaspora and closely work with them to promote India's cultural influence in their accredited countries. The activities of ICCR including scholarship programmes, cultural performances by sponsored troupes, exhibitions, International Day of Yoga, seminars & conferences abroad and distinguished visitors programme are organized by the Missions with active participation of the local Diaspora.

3.27 The Committee note that for the matters relating to overseas Indians an amount of Rs. 13.21 crore has been allocated under the Sub Head 'Welfare of Overseas Indians' and Rs. 37.00 crore under another Sub Head 'Engagement with Indian Diaspora' in the BE 2023-24. The allocation under these two Sub Heads has been brought down as compared to RE 2022-23. For the BE 2023-24, the allocations under Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children and Awareness Campaigns, etc. have also been brought down. Since the Indian Diaspora comprising of over 18 million PIOs and 13 million NRIs, spread across the globe is one of the largest overseas community of any country and comprises a diverse range from laborers/workers, traders, political leaders, professional and students etc., the Committee have been continuously recommending the Ministry to make requisite Budgetary Allocation for the schemes

and programmes related to their welfare and protection. However, the Committee note that the Budgetary Allocation for scheme/programmes related to Welfare of Overseas Indians in the BE 2023-24 has been reduced considerably even after coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Committee, hence desire that the Working Group constituted for the evaluation of various Schemes and Programmes for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora should review the adequacy of financial allocations made under each programme and make appropriate recommendations under intimation to the Committee so that a smooth and timely implementation of schemes/programmes for the welfare of overseas Indians is done through efficient and optimum utilization of the same in the post-COVID world.

(Recommendation No. 26)

3.28 The Committee note that the Budgetary Allocation under the head 'Welfare of Overseas Indians' is Rs. 13.21 crore for 2023-24 out of which Rs. 3 crore has been provisioned for 'Pre-Departure Orientation Training and Skill Up-gradation of Emigrant Workers'. The Committee note that for this purpose an amount of Rs. 7 crore was allocated at BE 2021-22 which was revised to Rs. 2 crore at RE stage but there was 'nil' expenditure on this programme during 2021-22. Similarly, against the BE and RE of Rs. 3 crore during 2022-23 only Rs. 0.26 crore has been spent for the purpose. The Committee desire that such trend should be reversed and the full Budget of Rs. 3 crore allocated for this purpose for 2023-24 should be appropriately utilized. The Committee further desire that the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad should actively engage the Indian Diaspora and intimate the Committee about the initiatives taken to facilitate their active involvement in the socio-economic,

political and technological development of the country, at regular intervals.

(Recommendation No. 27)

3.29 The Committee observe that presently, 32 PDOT centres are operational in 29 cities in 15 States of the country. The Ministry has informed that opening of 58 additional PDOT centres in 8 States viz., Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab has been approved in the current Financial Year. However, the Committee note that the funds for operating PDOT centres have so far been released to the State Government of Telangana only. The Committee understand that execution of various schemes and programmes related to the welfare of overseas Indians as well as migration of workers abroad have been hampered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the post-COVID world, since more and more workers would seek employment abroad, the Committee expect the Ministry to help enhance the soft skills of such workers, sensitize them about the pathways to safe and legal migration and educate them about the various Government programmes for their welfare and protection through the Pre-Departure Orientation Training and Skill Up-gradation programme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to undertake vigorous follow-up action with the remaining 7 States so that the funding requirement for opening of PDOT centres are received from the States and the centres are operationalised without further delay. In view of the popularity of the online training and the positive response from participants, especially women participants to it, the Committee desire that the Ministry offer more

online PDOT trainings along with in-person trainings in the Financial Year 2023-24. They also desire that the details of such trainings since inception may also be furnished to them.

(Recommendation No. 28)

3.30 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry conducts pre- orientation programme for students also before they join their institutes abroad. It is also observed that Indian Embassies/Posts abroad do not possess complete details and addresses of students abroad. The gravity of this situation was brought home during the Ukraine crisis when the Ministry needed to contact all the Indian students in Ukraine. The Ministry has informed the Committee that Indian nationals abroad, particularly Indian students, are reticent about registering themselves with the Indian Embassies/Posts abroad. The Committee desire that the Ministry, through the PDOT sessions, should impress upon all the students as well as other Indian nationals going abroad that it is in their own interest and for their safety/security that they are required to register with the Indian Embassies/Posts abroad. Since it is with the Ministry and the Missions abroad to make them aware about the facilities/assistance provided to them including resolving of their grievances, the Committee recommend that the Indian Embassies/Posts abroad may also be pursued to do greater outreach and establish close connect with Indian nationals abroad including students through social media platforms so that an authentic database of students as well as Indian nationals abroad is available and maintained in the Ministry.

(Recommendation No. 29)

3.31 The Committee also note that the Ministry is making efforts to establish a system to regulate migration to such countries where greater possibility of exploitation is felt, like the Gulf countries as well as to countries where skills and talents are needed. The Committee desire that this exercise may be completed at the earliest so as to obviate exploitation of Indian migrant workers abroad.

(Recommendation No. 30)

3.32 The Committee note that the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention, organised from 8-10 January 2023 in the physical format after a gap of four years has witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 3500 overseas Indians from about 70 countries. The participants included more than 800 businessmen, 500 professionals and a sizeable number of unskilled workers. Moreover, for the first time, a delegation of over 200 students and 100 blue collar workers from companies in the UAE participated in the said Convention. The exact number of the most vulnerable section of migrant workers who participated in PBD has not been disclosed. Similarly, the Committee also note that the number of blue collar workers who participated in the Convention is, however, far too little, i.e., a mere 2.86 % of the total and confined to workers from the UAE only. It has always been the desire of the Committee to see the maximum participation of the most vulnerable sections of the Indian Diaspora from various countries in the PBD events. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure the participation of skilled/unskilled/blue collar Indians workers, in greater number, in the upcoming PBD celebrations and events. The feasibility of holding PBD celebrations and events annually may also be explored

as it would also contribute to promotion of trade, investment and tourism in the country.

(Recommendation No. 31)

3.33 The Committee find that under the scheme 'Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora', a new initiative 'Felicitation of Armed Forces Veterans Abroad' has been started by the Ministry to engage retired veterans from Indian Armed Forces. The Defence Wings of our Missions/Posts organize '*Varistha Yodhha*'/'*Yodhha Samman Divas*' events and recall the service/sacrifice of our distinguished veterans by honoring them and their spouses with the presentation of mementoes. The Committee understand that such events have so far been organised in US, Canada and Australia and the participation of Diaspora leaders and local political leadership in them has been so encouraging. In view of the importance of organizing such events and the enthusiastic response from the Diaspora, the Committee recommend that more such events to honour our armed forces veterans and veterans of other fields may be organized in other countries too where the Diaspora presence is high and the outcome may be shared with the Committee in due course.

(Recommendation No. 32)

3.34 The Committee note that the Government has undertaken several initiatives such as, Vaishwaik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and Pravasi Bhartiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRABHASS) to facilitate active engagement of leading Diaspora academicians and scientists to the scientific and technological development of

India, tap the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally and bring on board the Global Indian S & T community. Further, the Department of Science and Technology is working towards announcing VAIBHAV fellowships programme for collaboration projects identified under the VAIBHAV initiative. Under the GIAN Scheme, 2163 collaboration projects have so far been approved and 1716 projects have been completed. The PRABHASS initiative has also resulted in a few collaborations. The Committee welcome these initiatives as they serve the purpose of enhancing India's educational, scientific and technological capacities. The Committee acknowledge that such engagements would result in more collaboration projects with academicians and scientists from the Diaspora community. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to deepen its engagements with the said community and strengthen its collaboration efforts with an outcome oriented approach and enhance its scientific, technological, educational and economic capacities using Indian talent abroad.

(Recommendation No. 33)

3.35 The Committee have always felt the need to sensitize the Indian Diaspora on the crucial role played by them in India's soft power diplomacy and in exercising economic and political influence in their host countries so as to build up and strengthen the existing relationship between their home and host country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which supplements its efforts to leverage the Indian Diaspora in soft power projection, should come out with a

blueprint to utilise the Indian Diaspora as a 'resource' in projecting India's soft power, culture and values abroad.

(Recommendation No. 34)

CHAPTER IV

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PORTFOLIO

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India has substantially expanded its development cooperation in various countries which includes Grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LOC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, heritage restoration, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses encompassing both geographical reach and sectoral coverage.

4.2 Inspired by the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India's international development cooperation has expanded significantly in the recent years in its geographical reach as well as in the areas of cooperation. It is natural that most of India's significant development partnerships include the neighbouring countries, given the focus of India's external engagement on its immediate and extended neighbourhood supported by the 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies.

4.3 India's abiding geo-political, strategic and economic interests and the need to effectively deliver India's assistance has prompted greater engagement with developing countries, particularly on the development assistance front. In recognition of this, the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in January 2012 to effectively handle India's development aid projects through the stages of conception, launch, execution and completion. The DPA functions in close coordination with the Territorial Divisions in the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries in identifying their developmental needs and priorities.

4.4 As the DPA arm of the Ministry has gained experience over the years, the sustainability of projects besides the project delivery and implementation

have received increased attention. India's development partnership model has received a high degree of acceptance from its partners because of the focus on keeping the requirements and priorities of the partner country at the center of the projects.

4.5 India's development assistance has been a major catalyst for creation of much needed infrastructure in the partner countries such as railway links, roads & bridges, waterways, border related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower etc.

4.6 Development Partnership portfolio (or the Technical and Economic Cooperation) which constitutes India's Aid to various countries, continues to be the focus and priority with the largest allocation in the Ministry's budget. In FY 2023-24, of the total budget of Rs. 18050 crore, the Technical and Economic Cooperation Heads (TEC) outlay is Rs. 5848.58 crore, out of which Rs. 5080.24 crore (28.14%) is for grant programmes and Rs. 768.34 crore (4.25%) is for loans.

4.7 The following table depicts the percentage of MEA's total budget outlay under 'Technical & Economic Co-operation' during the last three years:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Outlay (BE)	TEC (BE)	% age of BE	Budget Outlay (RE)	TEC (RE)	% age of RE
2019-20	17884.78	7333.79	41.01	17372.27	6619.78	38.11
2020-21	17346.71	6617.37	38.15	15000.00	5145.26	34.30
2021-22	18154.73	7635.15	42.06	16000.00	5698.43	35.62

2022-23	17250.0 0	6750.0 0	39.13	16972.7 9	6005.70	35.38
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4.8 In BE 2023-24, the total assistance for our external engagement comprises of 32.40 % of its total Budget ,i.e. Rs. 5848.58 crore out of the total Budget outlay of total outlay of Rs. 18050 crore for the Ministry.

4.9 The Major Budget Head '3605' on 'Technical and Economic Cooperation with Other Countries' caters to India's aid and assistance programmes not only in India's immediate and extended neighborhood, but also in countries in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific region. It also caters to Aid for Disaster Relief and contributions to various regional funds. The Budgetary Allocations in respect of grant aids to countries and for various programmes/project are given below :-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Country	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
1.	Bangladesh	300.00	170.00	200.00
2.	Bhutan	1560.01	1779.28	1632.24
3.	Nepal	750.00	425.00	550.00
4.	Sri Lanka	200.00	75.00	150.00
5.	Maldives	360.00	400.00	400.00
6.	Myanmar	600.00	500.00	400.00
7.	Other Developing Countries	150.00	135.00	150.00
8.	Disaster Relief	10.00	5.00	5.00
9.	ITEC Programme	167.70	125.00	150.00
10.	SAARC Programme	6.00	6.00	6.00
11.	African countries	250.00	160.00	250.00
12.	Multilateral Economic Relation Programme	14.00	8.60	10.00
13.	Investment Promotion & Publicity Programme	210.00	320.00	229.21
14.	Eurasian Countries	140.00	65.00	75.00

15.	Afghanistan	200.00	350.00	200.00
16.	Latin American Countries	40.00	7.00	50.00
17.	Indo-Pacific Cooperation	50.00	60.00	40.00
18.	Mongolia	12.00	2.50	7.00
19.	Chabahar Port	100.00	100.00	100.00
20.	Mauritius	900.00	575.00	460.79
21.	Seychelles	14.06	6.45	10.00
22.	Aid for Cultural and Heritage Projects	10.00	10.00	5.00
				Total- 5080.24

4.10 In addition to the above grants to various countries, under Capital Section, Major Head '7605' Advances to Foreign Governments, Rs. 768.34 crore has been factored as loans to the government of Bhutan. Thus, in FY 2023-24, a total outlay of Rs. 2400.58 has been made for Bhutan.

4.11 The Ministry has stated that 'Aid Programmes' are influenced by the dynamics of India's national interest, diplomatic engagements and political relations. Further, pace of implementation of agreed projects are dependent on the host beneficiary Government's readiness, local security and climatic factors as well. It is therefore difficult to anticipate all the requirements accurately at the BE stage. However, necessary rationalization in allocations is made in the RE stage as per pace of project implementation.

4.12 When asked to state the parameters for allocation of Budget under the Head, the Ministry has informed that in respect of ongoing projects, schemes and programmes, funding allocations for Aid Heads are made after a realistic assessment of needs and spending habits, based on project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress; and for

planned projects, schemes and programmes, based on project implementation timelines and cost estimates. The major Divisions/Spending Units, which work closely with the Implementing Agencies to track the status of projects under the Aid Programmes, provide feedback that is used to determine the budgetary needs. The inputs are compiled and compared with the project's prior utilisation, work progress, and spending rate. Using this data, the Ministry's Integrated Finance Division holds discussions with the Divisions to obtain realistic estimations of their demands. Likewise, Budgetary Allocations for new projects are created in accordance with estimations based on project implementation schedules and cost estimates in their Detailed Project Reports. The amount of funds available within the overall budgetary provision established by the Ministry of Finance is subsequently allocated. The Territorial Divisions and DPA Divisions make the administrative choice of the projects to be carried out under the Aid Headings, taking into consideration the political ties with the various nations.

4.13 On being asked whether the allocated amount is adequate to offset Chinese influence in various countries especially in our Neighbourhood, the Ministry responded that the Government of India has a well-articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First' with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. Indian Government has given a place of special significance to our foreign policy and diplomatic outreach. Revitalizing traditional ties, re-setting strategic relations and reaching out to Indians abroad have been primary to India's diplomatic efforts in the Neighbourhood. Adequate budgetary provision is done under international Scheme Heads based on realistic assessment of ongoing projects as well as new commitments.

4.14 The details of Budgetary Demands made, actual allocations given and utilization under this Head in respect of various countries during the last three years are given below:-

	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23		
Budget Heads	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp.	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp.	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp.*
Aid to Bangladesh	535.35	200.00	177.98	300.00	200.00	170.63	275.05	300.00	104.30
Aid to Bhutan	3000.65	2884.65	2097.67	3295.00	3004.95	1646.57	2577.15	2266.24	701.11
Aid to Nepal	1206.12	800.00	879.12	1387.50	992.00	205.37	1179.34	750.00	240.46
Aid to Sri Lanka	399.15	200.00	44.81	300.00	200.00	16.93	661.00	200.00	45.47
Aid to Maldives	844.90	300.00	160.19	500.00	250.00	194.29	500.00	360.00	116.29
Aid to Myanmar	914.94	300.00	347.06	600.00	400.00	346.91	800.00	600.00	346.79
Aid to Other Developing Countries	165.22	120.00	117.13	180.00	130.00	66.16	104.00	150.00	82.26
Aid to African Countries	819.76	350.00	226.28	1349.29	300.00	63.24	450.00	250.00	103.78

Aid to Eurasian Countries	60.97	45.00	45.42	150.00	100.00	60.92	181.00	140.00	46.66
Aid to Latin American Countries	61.18	20.00	11.77	64.46	40.00	26.33	54.92	40.00	1.05
Aid to Afghanistan	614.04	400.00	348.82	409.74	350.00	105.35	220.03	200.00	187.90
Aid to Mongolia	5.15	2.00	0.48	6.45	2.00	0.00	30.00	12.00	0.00
Aid to Mauritius	1540.56	1025.00	652.06	1760.55	900.00	621.42	1070.00	900.00	374.84
Aid to Seychelles	81.24	140.00	90.29	299.68	160.00	17.76	14.15	14.06	4.43

*Up to December 2022

4.15 As regards utilization of the grants and delay in execution of projects, the Committee raised their concerns. When they desired to know the challenges faced and reasons for lower utilization, the Foreign Secretary , submitted, inter-alia' during oral evidence as under:

"I would be incorrect if I do not mention some of the challenges that we face in project execution. These are realities on the ground. These are not the arguments justifying the delay. This is just the realities. Our

effort is to look at these realities from a solution perspective and not a problem perspective.

There are logistical constraints of geographies. If I have to implement a project in Africa, I cannot rely on my logistical supply chains to implement the project there. I have to rely on logistical chains that are prevalent within the country. This is one. Secondly, applying Indian procurement rules in the foreign countries, this is something which I have been personally campaigning very hard, not without much success, to be honest which is that it is very difficult to apply Indian GFR rules in countries abroad because they have their own GFR rules equivalent. If I am a project there, they say that our GFR is good with them but how does it interface there? So, we try to be bridging applications which somehow my GFR can talk to his GFR in a manner that my project is implemented much better. That is second challenge.

Thirdly, in some cases, Myanmar is a classic example. There are security concerns because of political flux. Hon. Chairman referred to Afghanistan and the value is kept at 200 and odd crores. Afghanistan and Myanmar are two classic examples where the absolute security problems create problems for your project implementation. A number of these challenges have impacted therefore the utilisation of budget quantum and I have listed some of the challenges on the screen also.

When I look at aid to Africa, aid to Mongolia, aid to Sri Lanka, aid to Nepal, aid to Seychelles, these all had varying percentage of achievements in budget implementation and again, you yourself referred to Sir about the challenges that we currently face in Sri Lanka, for example, because of the dire economic situation. So, dire economic situation has become a constraint on the utilisation of the budget amounts. That is just a point. Aid to Sri Lanka is Rs. 200 crore. RE was Rs. 75 crore. We are well on course to achieve that Rs. 75 crores. Aid to other developing countries is Rs. 135 crores. We might fall little bit short there. On aid to ITEC programmes, we are generally doing good on ITEC programmes amounting to Rs. 125 crores. Aid to African countries come to Rs. 160 crores which is the RE figure. I think aid to Seychelles is a bit of challenge because of the problems there. These are some of the challenges that we face."

4.16 As regards the reasons for delay in projects , the Foreign Secretary , submitted during oral evidence as under:

"...When it comes to the delay in these countries, the process delays, whether they are on our side, whether they are on the foreign country side, are most easily manageable because these are process delays. But sometimes, as I said, you get into issues which are very structural to the politics and developments in those countries. So, in Sri Lanka, for example, we could not do because the economy just collapsed. So, the system had no capacity to absorb anything that you would give. So, we had to reorient ourselves, restructure, redesign, reconceptualise the way we were extending money, which we did.

The second is the security related problems which create logistical challenges, for example in Myanmar. So, we have a stretch of road. A part of it passes through the Army-controlled area. Hence, there is no problem. A part of it passes through the insurgency infested area. Even if the Government wants to help us, we are not able to do it. We have a reverse side of it which is in Afghanistan for example where security is a problem, particularly. We are able to carry out a large number of humanitarian programmes with the international humanitarian assistance organization. So, there are sort of different examples of it. But most of these delays are structural, as I said. There is a huge regulatory mismatch between our regulation, our tendering process, our RFP process and the foreign. I will give you an example. We have a project called National Police Academy project with Nepal which is a grand project but to be done under the procurement rules of Nepal. The procurement rules of Nepal are very different from our procurement rules. That led to negotiating large number of agreements which will bridge this gap. That caused some delays. *Per se*, a process is not a delay. But some of these issues are a delay."

4.17 Another key aspect of India's development assistance in the past few years has been the extension of LOCs or concessional loans to other developing countries. Over the years, 312 LOCs aggregating more than USD 32.28 billion have been extended to different countries in various sectors, of which USD 12.39 billion has been extended for African countries, USD 17.07 billion has been extended for Asian countries and USD 2.87 billion for countries in Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

4.18 The Ministry has stated that the Technical and Economic Cooperation budget allocation also caters for Aid for Disaster Relief. Talking about the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief assistance offered to other countries, the Foreign Secretary stated during oral evidence as under:

“Coming to the humanitarian assistance, the most recent one of this is the Operation Dost. There are three things to be mentioned about this operation. One, we were first of the block. We were the first to reach there and mobilise people and also first to ensure that the people’s demands in Turkey and Syria. Third, it involved whole of the Government approach. So, it was fascinating how within broadly four hours it took for MHA, NDMA, NDRF, Headquarters IDS Defence and MEA to come together and mobilise them and move them out under Operation Dost to Turkey.

....We within a day set up a full-fledged 30-40 bed self-sustained field hospital which was handling roughly 400 patients with 99 medical specialists, critical care specialists with equipments like ventilators, oxygen generation plants, cardiac monitors, X-ray machines, etc. There is another thing. I do not know whether this has come in the media but this is an important point for the hon. Committee for me to flag that this was, perhaps, the first time – I may be wrong here and I apologise if I am wrong on facts – that we sent a disaster relief to a country which has more developed infrastructure than we have or which has the better capacities than we have or which is economy-wise stronger than we are, yet, we responded and responded among the first. We responded in a coordinated way and very fast. I think, it is another milestone, I would say, in our abilities, capacities to be able to carry this out in a perfect way.

Besides this, we did provide human assistance and disaster relief assistance to over 150 countries in recent times. In Financial Year 2023, the HADR assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Cambodia, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, and roughly. There were 15-16 odd countries which were the beneficiaries of this scheme.”

4.19 The Committee find that India's international development cooperation, inspired by the spirit of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ has expanded significantly in the recent years in its geographical reach

as well as in the areas of cooperation. India's development engagement in various countries includes Grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LOC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, heritage restoration, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses. The Committee find that the development partnership portfolio or the Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC), which constitutes India's Aid to various countries, continues to be the focus and priority with the largest allocation in the Ministry's Budget. In FY 2023-24, out of the total budget of Rs. 18050 crore, the TEC outlay is 32.40% , i.e. Rs. 5848.58 crore, out of which Rs. 5080.24 crore (28.14%) is for grant programmes and Rs. 768.34 crore (4.25%) is for loans. However, the Committee find that the percentage share of outlay under development partnership portfolio has been declining and has reached the lowest in the current financial year from 42.06% in B.E 2021-22. From B.E of 2022-23, the reduction in allocation is 6.73%. Since the Committee have always stood for the expansion of our development partnership footprint, the consistent reductions in the TEC outlay year after year, needs attention. In view of the fact that our development assistance has been a major catalyst for creation of much needed infrastructure such as railway links, roads & bridges, waterways, border related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower, etc., in the partner countries and goodwill towards India, the Committee recommend that the development partnerships with countries needs to be reinforced with adequate Budgetary provisions especially in view of the increasing interest and influence of Regional players like China in the neighbourhood. The Committee, therefore, desire that additional Budgetary requirements under

these international scheme Heads may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance through Supplementary Demands for Grants or an increased RE by putting forth a compelling case for enhanced funds.

(Recommendation No. 35)

4.20 While observing the pace of expenditure under aid to various countries, the Committee note that the utilisation in respect of 'Aid to Bhutan' which is the largest financial assistance among the countries is only Rs 701.11 crore till December 2022 out of BE 2022-2023 allocation of Rs. 2266.24 crore. An amount of Rs. 1.05 crore only has been incurred in respect of 'Aid to Latin American Countries', while expenditure is nil for 'Aid to Mongolia' up to December, 2022. Barring two countries viz, Myanmar and Afghanistan out of the rest, utilisation of funds hover around 30-40 percent in the current Financial Year. The Committee are aware that the execution of projects and utilisation of funds have been impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-21 and 2021-22. They, however, fail to understand as to why the pace of implementation of projects and utilisation of funds has not picked up with the easing of the COVID-19 situation during 2022-23. The Committee also find that despite the political turmoil in Myanmar and Afghanistan, more than 50% of the allocated funds have been utilised. Taking all the above into consideration, the Committee conclude that there are certain gaps in project implementation and monitoring and desire that such gaps/loopholes should be identified and remedial measures taken to plug the same. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to strengthen its coordination with the Implementing Agencies so that in the post-COVID world, schemes

that cater to India's global image may be executed smoothly and efficiently.

(Recommendation No. 36)

4.21 The Committee understand that the 'Technical and Economic Cooperation with Other Countries' caters also to Aid for Disaster Relief. Besides Turkey and Syria recently, the Committee find that Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) was given to over 150 countries. In the Financial Year 2023 alone, HADR assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Cambodia, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, etc. While wholeheartedly applauding the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities of the Ministry, the Committee desire that the possibility of having a separate fund for disaster relief operations may be looked into. The Committee also desire that India continue to remain first of the block in extending humanitarian assistance to people and countries whenever there is a need.

(Recommendation No. 37)

I. Aid to Bangladesh

4.22 The Budgetary Allocation under the Sub-Head 'Aid to Bangladesh' was Rs. 300 crores during BE 2022-23, which was reduced to Rs. 170.00 crore in RE 2022-23. The Allocation for BE 2023-24 is Rs. 200 crores.

4.23 Responding to the query of the Committee on the reasons for reduction in the allocation for RE 2022-23 while BE 2023-24 has been increased to Rs. 200 crores, the Ministry submitted that the BE for the current Financial Year was projected based on expenditure pattern in last FY which also included COVID related assistance to Bangladesh. At RE 2022-23,

allocation was rationalized based on actual budget utilization pattern in current financial year. BE 2023-24 has been retained at Rs. 200 crores in anticipation of completion of some of the ongoing projects such as the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline. Appropriate provisions have also been made for new commitments such as new High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) and other new projects under grant-in-aid. The prudence of budgetary allocation weighs in favour of beginning with allocation from a lower base with scope for augmentation of funds to be sought through Supplementary or at the RE stage, depending on the pace of expenditure and requirement.

4.24 On being asked about the status of the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project and the timeline for its completion, the Ministry has stated that Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link is a cross-border rail connectivity project to connect the existing station of Agartala in India to the Gangasagar station in Bangladesh. MEA is handling the 6.78 km long Bangladesh portion on the rail link. Till date, Physical Progress of 70% has been achieved. The Indian portion of the rail link is funded by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and implemented by Ministry of Railways through M/s IRCON. Sufficient funds have been provided for the project by MEA and shortage of the funds is not a problem. The project has been delayed by multiple factor including short working period due to prolonged monsoons season, COVID pandemic and the weak financial position of the Contractor appointed by the Government of Bangladesh. Multiple review meetings have been conducted by MEA and by Ministry of Railways to increase the pace of progress. Joint review of the project has been conducted on 15th January 2023 by MEA with concerned Bangladesh officials and PMC, M/s IRCON. Extension of time has been granted to the contractor till June 2023.

4.25 The Ministry has also furnished a detailed note on the status of other ongoing developmental projects in Bangladesh as under:-

- (i) India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline: The 131 km pipeline for supply of high-speed diesel is being constructed from Siliguri in West Bengal to Parbatipur in Bangladesh. MEA has signed a MoU with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a public sector company under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for construction of the Bangladesh portion of the India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline in 2018. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 346.04 crore and the Bangladesh portion of Rs. 285.24 crore is being built under grant assistance. Mechanical completion of the project has been achieved in December 2022 and over 97 per cent of the project is complete.
- (ii) Under a MoU signed in 2017, dredging is being undertaken in the Sirajganj-Dhaikhowa stretch of the Jamuna river and Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of the Kushiara river in Bangladesh which are part of the India Bangladesh Inland Water Transit & Trade Protocol Routes. The cost of the total project is Rs. 305.84 crore of which 80% is funded through GoI grant (Rs 230.74 crore). It is an ongoing project. Recently, world's longest river cruise 'Ganga Vilas' from Varanasi to Dibrugarh passed through one such stretch of Jamuna River in Bangladesh.
- (iii) High Impact Community Development Projects: India and Bangladesh signed a bilateral MoU on Indian grant assistance for implementation Of High Impact Community Development Projects in 2013 and renewed in 2020. The projects are related to socio-economic development aimed at creating maximum impact for local communities, particularly in the areas of education, health and sanitation, water treatment, urban development, conservation of environmental, sports and cultural heritage, women empowerment, child welfare, community development and livelihood activity. As on date, 74 HICDPs have been completed, while 15 HICDPs are ongoing.
- (iv) India has setup two centres for skill development at Khulna and Rajshahi in Bangladesh. The tool and dye manufacturing unit at Khulna was handed over to Bangladesh in August 2019 and the Dairy Processing Unit at Rajshahi was handed over in December 2020. Training of trainer program is ongoing. The total project cost is Rs 9.78 crore.
- (v) Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, 3931 personnel from Bangladesh have been trained in India during the

2016-22 period. 2000 scholarships per year are awarded to the wards of Mukti Joddhas. In addition, 1000 Suborno Jayanthi scholarships have been announced during PM's visit to Bangladesh in March 2021. Under GoI assistance, Bangabandhu chair has been setup at Delhi University to promote greater academic exchanges between the two countries.

- (vi) Youth delegation: A 100-member Youth delegation from Bangladesh visited India in October 2022, wherein they toured prominent sites of academic/cultural interest in New Delhi and other Indian cities. The delegation also called on Hon'ble President of India. The programme was sponsored from the 'Aid to Bangladesh' budget.

4.26 GoI has also extended 4 Lines of Credit (LOCs) worth USD 7.862 billion to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) through Exim Bank of India for undertaking development projects. These include LOCs of US\$ 862 million (LOC-I), US\$ 2 billion (LOC-II), US\$ 4.5 billion (LOC-III) and US\$ 500 million (LOC-IV) covering 43 projects across a wide range of sectors like roads, railways, ports, airport, power, urban development, special economic zones, information technology, renewable energy and defence. Out of the 43 projects covered under the LOCs, 14 projects have already been completed, while 9 projects are currently under execution. 10 projects are currently under preparation stage by GoB while 10 projects are under tendering by GoB. Some of the important projects completed under LOCs include the Bhairab Railway Bridge, Titas Railway Bridge, Railway Signalling system of Ashuganj-Akhaura section, Supply of Railway Locomotives, Coaches and Wagons, Supply of Buses and Trucks, Supply of Dredging Ship etc. Some of the important projects under implementation include Khulna-Mongla Railway Line, Rupsha Railway Bridge, Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Line, Upgradation of Mongla Port, Payra Port Multipurpose Terminal, Power Evacuation facilities of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Road projects, SEZs etc. These LOC projects will play a significant role in development of critical infrastructure and in overall economic development of Bangladesh.

4.27 When asked to furnish the details of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) and other new projects to be taken up during 2023-24, the Ministry has stated that India and Bangladesh signed a bilateral MoU on Indian grant assistance for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in 2013. Individual projects of worth Bangladesh Taka 50 crore are undertaken as HICDPs in partnership with local bodies, civil society, and public sector institutions in Bangladesh. The projects related to socio-economic development are aimed at bringing maximum benefit to the local communities. Total 74 such projects have been completed so far. Currently 15 such projects with cumulative cost of INR 127.73 crores are ongoing, and new projects in areas of education, health, water and sanitation, urban development, conservation of environment, sports and cultural heritage, women empowerment, child welfare, community and livelihood development, are under consideration for implementation in FY 2023-24. Among the other new projects to be taken up during 2023-24 will be construction of a second cargo gate at ICP Petrapole as an integrated facility at the India-Bangladesh Border. A part of the expenditure for this will be funded as grant assistance by MEA. Dredging of Sirajganj-Dhaikhowa stretch of the Jamuna river and Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of the Kushiara river in Bangladesh, which are part of the India Bangladesh Inland Water Transit & Trade Protocol Routes. The cost of the total project is Rs. 305.84 crores (includes dredging for seven years) of which 80% is funded through GoI grant. This project will continue in FY 2023-24.

4.28 During the course of evidence on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary submitted:

"In Bangladesh, we have a concessional credit line of approximately 10 billion dollars. Roughly, it is Rs. 80,000 crores you could say, over a period of last several areas. All of it has not been utilised, I must mention. I think, our utilisation is 2.8 to 2.9 billion dollars. But the

other amounts are earmarked for projects. We have key ongoing train project known as Akhaura-Agartala Train Link. Then, we have dredging of Kushiara and Jamuna River. For Bangladesh, siltation of the rivers, and hence their navigational ability becomes a challenge. Constant dredging of the rivers, desilting them is a very, very huge effort. There is an integrated check posts. We recently started river based cruise tourism which involves Ganga Vilas Boat which was flagged off from Varanasi, India to Dibrugarh. It passes through one such stretch of Jamna River which is in Bangladesh, which is a new area for us. We have never looked at tourism, I would say, in such a creative way. We have had relied on our traditional airbase landings in tourism. So, it is a something good”.

4.29 The Foreign Secretary further added:

“By and large, we have 74 projects in Bangladesh which have been completed, and currently 16 projects are going on the preservation on cultural heritage, infrastructure, education etc. Akhaura-Agartala Train Link is over 70 per cent complete, but has suffered some delays because of factors, which I have already highlighted.”

4.30 The Committee note that the BE 2023-24 under 'Aid to Bangladesh' has been retained at Rs. 200 crore in anticipation of completion of some of the ongoing projects such as the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline. In respect of the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project which has been delayed due to multiple factors, physical progress of 70% has been achieved and extension of time has been granted to the contractor till June 2023. The Government has also been providing Grant assistance for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) related to socio-economic development aimed at creating maximum impact for local communities. So far, 74 HICDPs have been completed while 15 HICDPs are ongoing. Under Line of Credit (LoC), 9 projects are currently under execution and 10 projects are currently under preparation by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) while 10 projects are under tendering by GoB. The Committee further note

that out of a concessional credit line of approximately 10 billion dollars, utilization so far is only to the tune of 2.8 to 2.9 billion dollars. The Ministry has also stated that some new projects in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, urban development, conservation of environment, sports and cultural heritage, women empowerment, child welfare, community and livelihood development are under consideration for implementation in FY 2023-24. The Committee expect the Ministry to improve the pace of expenditure for all the projects during 2023-24 as the COVID situation has normalized. Expeditious completion of all the pending/ongoing HICDPs projects as well as projects taken up under Line of Credit is required to avoid time and cost overruns. In view of the benefits of HICDPs to the local community, new projects under consideration for implementation in FY 2023-24 may also be finalized at the earliest. As Line of Credit (LoC)projects are likely to play a significant role in the development of critical infrastructure and overall development of Bangladesh, the Ministry may also extend all assistance for finalization of those projects under preparation/tendering by the Government of Bangladesh for speedy execution.

(Recommendation No. 38)

II. Aid to Bhutan

4.31 Government of India's aid and assistance programmes in Bhutan are currently covered under both Revenue and Capital Heads with Grants coming under Revenue and Loans coming under Capital sections of the budget. The funds under the Grants Head are utilized for various development projects including hydroelectric power projects, development subsidy to Bhutan, subsidy to Power Grid Corporation of India for drawal of power from Chukha hydroelectric project, payment to IOC for supply of kerosene oil and liquefied

petroleum gas to Bhutan at a subsidized price, excise duty refund to Bhutan, projects/schemes under Project Tied Assistance framework, scholarships to Bhutanese students in various institutions in India, etc. Allocations are made keeping in view the progress of work in various schemes/projects in Bhutan.

4.32 Under Revenue Head 3605, the BE for 2023-24 has been pegged at Rs. 1632.24 crore. During BE 2021-22, an allocation of Rs. 2124.20 crore was made under this Head which was the highest developmental cooperation to our neighbouring country. The Aid was drastically reduced to Rs. 1560.01 crore during BE 2022-23 and thereafter increased to Rs. 1779.28 crore during RE 2022-23.

4.33 Under Major Head 7605 on 'Advances to Foreign Governments rs. 768.34 crore was factored as Loans to Government of Bhutan. Thus, a total of Rs. 2400.58 crore has been allocated to Bhutan in the BE.2023-24 which is 41% of the development cooperation budget.

4.34 Explaining the reasons for fluctuating estimates under this Head, the Ministry has stated that fund requirements have been fluctuating, as all Projects have been affected by COVID-19 related restrictions and strict lock down in Bhutan, which was in place until as late as April 2022, leading to supply chain issues, labour shortages, etc. Further, the hydro power Projects are subject to geological surprises/elements which affects the project cycle and progress of works, impacting the demand of funds as well. Most Projects are back on track with smooth and seamless flow of material and human resources. Further, in case of smaller projects, which are implemented by the RGoB, the fund requirement is based on their local demand and utilization.

4.35 When asked to state the latest Loan to Grant ratio *vis-à-vis* Bhutan based on BE 2023-24, the Ministry has informed that the Loan to Grant

ratio for the hydro power projects in Bhutan are fixed. For Punatsangchhu-I, the ratio is 60:40, for Punatsangchhu-II, the ratio is 70:30 and for Mangdechhu, the ratio is 70:30. The Loan to Grant ratio as per the draft demand of BE 2023-24 of Rs 2408.9341 crore [Capital (Loan) of Rs 939.4094 crore and Revenue (Grant) of Rs 1469.5247 crore] is 39:61. The majority of Grant component, however, includes projects other than hydro power projects. As per past practice, the Loan to Grant ratio is maintained during the fund releases.

4.36 On the adequacy of the allocated funds for completion/progress of the projects, the Ministry has stated that it will make all possible re-scheduling of fund releases to stay within the approved Budget. Any additional fund requirement during FY 2023-24 would be projected at the RE stage.

4.37 The details of various ongoing projects in Bhutan along with the allocation for each project, timeframe for completion and the status of each Project is given below:-

Hydro Electric Projects:

S. No.	Project/ Scheme	Approved Value	Scheduled date of completion	Current Status
1.	Mangdechhu (720 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 2896.3 crore (as per DPR at March 2008 PL) • RCE of Rs 4020.63 crore (Approved in March 2016) • 2nd RCE of Rs 4672.38 crore 	Project has been commissioned. It was inaugurated in Aug 2019 by PMs of India and Bhutan. It has been	Physical progress: 100%; Fund released so far: Rs. 5012.63 crore.

		<p>(Approved in Sept 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd RCE of Rs 5012.63 crore (Approved in March 2019) • Completion cost of Rs 5033.56 crore (Approved in December 2022) 	handed over to Bhutan.	
2.	Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 3514.81 crore (as per DPR at December 2006 PL) • RCE of Rs 9375.58 crore (Approved in July 2015) 	Will become clear once the geological challenges are resolved. Technical discussions have been underway.	<p>Physical progress - 87.61% (as of Jan 2023);</p> <p>Fund released so far: Rs 8418.1311 crore</p>
3.	Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 3777.8 crore (as per DPR at March 2009 PL) • RCE of Rs 7290.62 crore (Approved in July 2016) • 2nd RCE/ Completion cost of Rs 9445.684 crore (Approved in January 2023). 	December 2023	<p>Physical progress - 93.84% (as of January 23);</p> <p>Fund released so far: Rs 7862.662 crore</p>

4.38 Non-HEPs: GoI is implementing Projects including Project Tied Assistance (PTA) and Small Development Projects in Bhutan under the GoI's committed assistance of Rs 4500 crore to Bhutan's XII Five Year Plan for 2018-23 (Approved by Union Cabinet in December 2018). Out of the Rs 4500 crore, Rs 2800 crore have been allocated for PTA, Rs 850 crore for Small Development Projects and Rs 850 crore for Programme Grant. Till date, out of Rs 4500 crore, Rs 3721.19 crore has been released under the 12th FYP.

4.39 During the course of evidence on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary apprised the Committee regarding the challenges being faced in the implementation of projects as well as new projects being assisted in Bhutan as under:-

"Bhutan has been traditionally the largest recipient of our financial assistance. We made a commitment of Rs. 4500 crores towards Bhutan from the 12th Five Year Plan. We have these regular Plan discussions with Bhutan.....Bhutan is undergoing a system of huge administrative reforms. We do not know their next Plan; 13th Plan projections would be. They could be much more than they were in the last Plan. They could be slightly less also. But our effort is to stand in support with Bhutanese Government, with Bhutanese system to support them in this. In the transition support, Covid saw a unique feature in Bhutan. Bhutanese is pegged to the Indian currency. It is roughly one rupee equals one Bhutanese Ngultrum which is their currency. We face this challenge that there is shortage of rupees in the Bhutanese system for trade and all that. They were also facing some structural problems because of the revenue deficit. So, they requested us for transitional facilities, structural support facilities, budgetary cash crunch and some other assistance relating to the problems which they faced because of their economy. So, currently we have more than 600 projects in Bhutan across various domains and various heads. Bhutan is currently coming up with a very ambitious project to build training academies for the entire Bhutanese youth of 18+ and train them for one year, two years as a compulsory training programme in their academy. It is

because Bhutan is facing the problem of migration of their population abroad. They want to stop that migration. So, they are requesting for our support and we are going to work very closely with them on this project.

Hydropower cooperation is a very crucial area of our partnership with Bhutan which has significantly budgetary outlays. But we are reaching in a situation where some of the old projects are now completing. So, we are looking for new projects whether it is Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project, Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project, Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project etc. We have jointly launched a satellite for Bhutan under the grant project. In fact, frankly, that is a new area which is not just limited to Bhutan”.

4.40 The Committee observe that Bhutan is the recipient of the highest developmental aid amongst our neighbouring countries. Currently, India is having more than 600 projects in Bhutan across various domains and under various Heads. India’s aid and assistance programmes in Bhutan are currently covered under both Grants and Loans totalling of Rs. 2400.58 crore in the BE.2023-24 which is 41% of the total development cooperation budget for the FY. The Grant in Aid component in the BE 2023-24 is Rs. 1632.24 crore and the loan component is Rs. 768.34 crore. The fund requirements under ‘Aid to Bhutan’ has been fluctuating due to the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions and strict lockdown in Bhutan as late as April 2022, as well as unforeseen geological conditions in case of hydroelectric power projects. The Committee have been informed that most projects are now back on track with smooth and seamless flow of material and human resources. The Committee, therefore, feel that the Budgetary allocation for 2023-34 may be inadequate and the Ministry might have to seek additional funding through Supplementary Demands for Grants. As the allocation of more funds through supplementary grants or an

increased RE would hinge on utilization pattern and anticipated expenditure in the last quarter of the Financial Year, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure efficient utilization of funds in every quarter of the FY 2023-24.

(Recommendation No. 39)

4.41 The Committee are aware that cooperation in Hydroelectric Power Projects is a very crucial area of our partnership with Bhutan and significant Budgetary Outlays have been provisioned over the years. The Ministry has informed that Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project of 720 MW has been commissioned and handed over to Bhutan. As of January 2023, the physical progress in respect of Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW HEP) is 87.61% and that of Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW HEP) is 93.84%. Currently, Punatsangchhu-I is facing unforeseen geological conditions and technical discussion in this regard are underway while Punatsangchhu-II is scheduled for completion in December 2023. The Committee desire that all out efforts should be made to resolve the technical problem being faced in the implementation of Punatsangchhu-I so that it is back on track. The Committee also desire that the scheduled date of completion for Punatsangchhu-II should be met.

(Recommendation No. 40)

4.42 The Committee note that under the GoI's committed assistance of Rs 4500 crore to Bhutan's XII Five Year Plan for 2018-23, Project Tied Assistance (PTA) and Small Development Projects are implemented in Bhutan. Out of India's commitment for the said Plan, Rs 3721.19 crore has been released so far. The Committee

desire that the committed funds should be fully utilized in the specified period for which it was committed and urge the Ministry to ensure that execution of projects gain momentum from the start of the FY 2023-24 itself so that based on the pace of expenditure, the remaining funds could be released in this last year of the said 12th FYP.

(Recommendation No. 41)

III. Aid to Nepal

4.43 Under the Sub-Head 'Aid to Nepal', the Allocation for BE 2022-23 was Rs. 750.00 crore and it was decreased to Rs. 425.00 crore at the RE stage. The Allocation under BE 2023-24 is pegged at Rs. 550.00 crore which is 26.67% less than BE 2022-23.

4.44 When asked about the reasons for the fluctuations in allocation under this Head during RE and BE stage and the impact on the ongoing projects, the Ministry has stated that timely implementation of ongoing bilateral projects in Nepal is a priority for Government of India. However, there is a decline in the Budget Allocation for RE stage of FY 2022-23 compared to BE of FY 2022-23 mainly due slowdown in project implementation due to COVID. In some of the projects, there were issues related to land acquisition by Government of Nepal. Some of the major projects under Aid to Nepal Budget such as Earthquake reconstruction, Integrated Checkpost at Nepalganj and Terai roads are in the advanced stages of completion or have been completed. Hence fund requirement for FY 2023-24 has been low i.e Rs. 550 Crore. However, if additional funds are required for timely implementation of projects, the same will be projected during RE stage.

4.45 Regarding the details of various projects that have been initiated,

completed during the last three financial years, the Ministry has informed that in the financial year 2019-20, construction of Integrated Check Post at Biratnagar, Nepal was completed and inaugurated in January 2020 at a cost of INR 139.73 crore. In the financial year 2020-21, 9 out of 14 Terai Roads packages were handed over to Government of Nepal on March 2021. The Government of India funded Terai roads project has helped strengthen road infrastructures in Terai region of Nepal and further boost people to people relationship between the border areas of the two countries. In the financial year 2021-22, 50000 houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of Nepal were completed and handed over to beneficiaries in November 2021, as part of GoI Earthquake reconstruction assistance. Total cost of the project is US\$ 150 US Million (including grant of US \$ 100 Million and LOC of US \$ 50 Million). In the current financial year, Jaynagar- Kurtha segment of Jayanagar-Bardibas cross border rail link has been operationalised and flagged off by PMs of India and Nepal in April 2022.

4.46 The details of GOI projects in Nepal that have been initiated or completed during the last three financial years are as below -

Construction of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs); India and Nepal signed a MoU in August 2005 for construction of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) namely Birgunj, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa in Nepal along the India-Nepal Border under GoI's Grant-in-Aid. Their Status is as under:

Nepalgunj : Construction work for ICP at Nepalgunj is under progress. Current physical progress is 82.41%.

ICPs at Bhairahawa in Nepal: Tendering process is completed and contract awarded to M/S KSM Pvt. Ltd. Agreement has been signed between M/S RITES Limited and contractor M/S KSM Pvt. Ltd. on 19 Dec 2022. GoN has handed over the site to the contractor on 5 February 2023.

Nepal Police Academy: India is constructing Nepal-Police Academy. CPWD was appointed as PMC for the project by MHA on 18 August 2017 and later

concluded by MEA in 2018. The work was awarded to the contractor M/s Ahluwalia-Roshan Construction Pvt Ltd and the site was handed over to the contractor on 13th July, 2022

Supply of Kidney dialysis Machine to Nepal: India is providing 200 Kidney Dialysis Machines to Nepal as Humanitarian assistance. The supply is expected to be completed in May 2023.

4.47 The major GoI-assisted projects in Nepal initiated and completed during the last three financial years are as follows: -

- a) ICP Biratnagar: Completed and handed over Government of Nepal in January 2020. The project was jointly inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in January 2020.
- b) The Jaynagar to Kurtha rail section (34km) which is the first broad gauge passenger rail line in Nepal has been completed and flagged off by the Prime Minister of India and Nepal virtually on 2nd April 2022. Kurtha-Bijalpura section is physically complete and ready for hand over to Nepal.

4.48 The Ministry has also provided the details of various ongoing development projects in Nepal along with the progress and expected timeline for completion, as below:-

S N	Project	Approved Cost	Timeline / Target	Progress
	'Aid to Nepal' budget head			
(Integrated Check Post under Phase-II at Nepalgunj, Nepal	INR 147.12 cr (Package -I)	24 months w.e.f. 25.11.2020 Likely to be completed in April/May, 2023.	Under execution – 79% physical progress (Progress affected due to COVID-19 lockdown, delay in master list approval, low ground water table and heavy monsoon, etc.)
(b)	Integrated Check Post under Phase-II at Bhairahawa	273.21 Cr	24 months from date of award of contract / land handover/	GoN has handed over the land to the Contractor on 05.02.2023. Ground breaking to be done shortly.

	, Nepal		approval of master list, whichever is later.	
(c)	Terai Roads project	INR 500 cr	Physical handover done, financially yet to be closed.	09/14 road packages completed and taken over by GoN 05/14 packages are complete but yet to be taken over by GoN (Progress affected due to COVID-19 lockdown, delayed land acquisition and RoW, etc.)
(d)	Post-earthquake reconstruction in health sector	USD 50 mn (INR 375 cr)	December 2023	Ongoing
(e)	Post-earthquake reconstruction in education sector	USD 50 mn (INR 375 cr)	June 2023	Ongoing
(f)	Post-earthquake reconstruction in cultural heritage sector	USD 50mn (INR 375 cr)	December 2023	Ongoing
(g)	Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link	INR 548 cr	3 years from date of award of contract	Phase-I completed and operationalized. Phase-II completed and awaited to be taken over by GoN Phase-III – Yet to begin as GoN has not handed over land for phase-III (Progress affected due to COVID-19 lockdown, delayed land acquisition

				and RoW, and delayed customs approval, etc.)
(h)	Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link	395.54 cr (yet to be approved by DIB)	March 2023 subject to customs clearance and availability of encumbrance free land. Target delayed due to land issue	Phase-I completed, waiting to be handed over. Phase-II under execution (Progress affected due to COVID-19 lockdown, delayed land acquisition and RoW, and delayed customs approval, etc.)
(i)	National Police Academy at Panauti	INR 657 cr	3 years from date of award of contract on 13.07.2022 Target date of completion 12.07.2025	Construction is in progress.
(j)	Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic college	41 cr approx including Consultancy fee	24 months w.e.f. 31.08.2019. Ministry approved EoT till 31.07.2022. Preparation of Revised estimates under process	50% physical progress achieved. (Progress affected due to COVID-19 lockdown, delayed land acquisition, customs approval, etc.)
(k)	Tanakpur Link Canal	80.09 cr + 5 cr escalation cost	18 months from commencement of work, i.e from 15.01.2020.	The canal main works have been completed.
(l)	Raxual-	39.72 cr	18 months	Survey work completed. Report

	Kathmandu FLS study		w.e.f. 7.10.2021 (date of signing of MoU for FLS)	finalization ongoing.
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4.49 The Foreign Secretary while tendering evidence before the Committee on 21 February 2023 submitted:

“Sir, you mentioned about Nepal. One of the key features of our neighbourhood policy has been connectivity. It means not just hardcore connectivity projects. Anything that connects is connectivity. In case of Nepal, for example, it is hydropower project which connects us. There are cross-border roads which connects us. The cross-border transmission line also connects us. The cross-border railways connect us. These are all the projects on which we are working very closely, infrastructure projects, integrated check posts, Jaynagar-Bardibas rail line projects etc. I have already mentioned about hydropower projects. ArunIII hydropower projects, lower Arun Hydropower Project, Arun III Project, Arun IV Project, Upper Karnali Project – these are all projects of hydropower where the power generated in Nepal can have linkages back with India. Sir, the Committee will be aware that Jaynagar-Kurtha cross-border rail link of 34 kilometres was closed and remained operational for the last eight years. We put in a significant effort of budgetary resources in operationalising this line. Right now, the Konkan Railways is running that line. There are some challenges relating to its smooth running that we face very often. But this is a classic example of connecting people of the two countries. We have also been using Jaynagar-Kurtha cross-border rail link to promote Ramayana Yatra Circuit. We have also Bharat Gaurav trains. It carried 500 tourists to Janakpurdham in June, 2022. There are similar other projects also which are very crucial. Another project in health space, which has been very successful in Nepal is that we supplied 200 kidney dialysis machines. Nepal has a unique challenge of dialysis problem and their people come to India for treatment. Somehow, the dialysis equipment and the consumables which go into dialysis machine are a challenge in terms of availability. The idea is to see that these people do not have to travel all the way to India. The well-off can afford it, but the

poor people who live in the mountain remote areas, they need dialysis facilities closer to their homes.

I can tell you that during COVID-19, this was a major challenge.....It is because the chemicals which go in the manufacturing of COVID vaccines are also the chemicals which are used in dialysis. So, when COVID-19 happened, those chemicals were stopped. Then we took a decision to see if we can set up a dialysis machine infrastructure in Nepal supplied with grant project and with the consumables which go with it. The first batch of 40 machines has been supplied in last week”.

4.50 The Committee enquired about the medicines and equipments related to COVID that India has provided to Nepal, the Ministry has informed that the Government of India has gifted 1.1 million doses of made in India Covishield vaccine as grant to Nepal. India has gifted essential medicines, equipments and medical supplies to Nepal for combating the COVID-19 Pandemic. 23 tonnes of essential medicines were gifted to Government of Nepal (GoN) to fight against COVID-19 on 22nd April 2020. This consignment included 8.25 lakhs dosage of essential medicines, including 3.2 lakhs dosage of Paracetamol and 2.5 lakhs dosages of Hydroxychloroquine. On 17th May 2020, Pathodetect Covid-19 Qualitative RT-PCR Test Kits for 30,000 tests were gifted to Government of Nepal. In the end of May 2020, 20,000 gloves were gifted to Government of Nepal. Ten ICU ventilators were gifted by Indian Army to Nepali Army on 9th August, 2020. Further, on 8th November 2020, 28 ICU Ventilators were handed over to Minister of Health & Population, Nepal. GoI has also handed 4000 vials of Remdesivir to Government of Nepal. In the last financial year, as part of India’s commitment to COVID-19 cooperation with Nepal, 150 ICU beds were handed over to Nepal on July 2021. Indian Army has gifted medical equipment worth Rs. 10 Crores to Nepali Army including ventilators, ambulances, ICU beds, PPE kits and PCR test kits in June 2021. GoI has also gifted a 960 LPM Medical Oxygen Plant to Nepal in August 2021. The Medical

Oxygen plant which utilizes Pressure Swing Adsorption technique has been installed at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal and is designed to cater to about 200 patients simultaneously.

4.51 The Committee observe that the requirements of funds under 'Aid to Nepal' has been low i,e Rs 550 crore for the FY 2023-24 as some of the major projects are in advanced stage of completion or have been completed. Some of the ongoing projects like Integrated Check Post Phase-II at Nepalgunj, Post-earthquake reconstruction in health, education and cultural heritage sectors, Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link, etc. are likely to be completed in 2023. In respect of the Terai Roads packages, 9 out of 14 were handed over to the Government of Nepal on March 2021 and 5 are yet to be handed over to Nepal. Hydro electric power projects in which the power generated can have linkages back to India include Arun III hydroelectric power project, lower Arun Hydroelectric power project, Arun IV hydro electric power project, Upper Karnali Project, etc. The Committee also note that work on some projects are yet to commence. Further, there were issues related to land acquisition by the Government of Nepal on some of the projects. The Committee desire that the GoI should impress upon the Government of Nepal to resolve all the pending land acquisition issues at the earliest so that the work on these projects could commence. As connectivity is one of the key features of India's Neighbourhood First Policy, the Committee desire that all out efforts may be made to complete all the ongoing projects as per the timeline/target. The Committee also urge the Ministry to expedite the handing over of five Terai road packages which have already been completed to boost people to

people contact between the border areas of the two countries. progress in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 42)

4.52 The Committee acknowledge the post-earthquake reconstruction work taken up by the Government of India in Nepal in addition to constructive interventions in health, education and cultural heritage sectors. A significant project in health space has been the successful setting up of dialysis machine infrastructure in Nepal with the supply of 200 kidney dialysis machines along with the consumables which go with it. The Committee are also pleased at the humanitarian assistance provided to Nepal in the form of 1.1 million doses of Made in India Covishield Vaccine as well as essential medicines, equipments and medical supplies for combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee are optimistic that the Government will continue to prioritize its relationship with Nepal and extend all assistance – financial, technical or humanitarian whenever needed and be a first responder to our immediate neighbour in times of need.

(Recommendation No. 43)

IV. Aid to Sri Lanka

4.53 The Budgetary Allocation under 'Aid to Sri Lanka' for BE 2022-23 was Rs. 200.00 crore. It was decreased to Rs. 75.00 crore at the RE stage. The Budgetary Allocation during BE 2023-24 has been kept at Rs. 150.00 crore.

4.53 Keeping in mind Sri Lanka's precarious economic position and the country's long-standing relations with India, the Committee desire to know as to why Aid to Sri Lanka has been constantly and significantly decreased since 2020-21. They have been informed that despite allocating necessary

budgetary provisions for various developmental assistance programme, both sides could not achieve intended progress on project implementation and budget utilisation on account of COVID pandemic followed by unprecedented economic crisis in Sri Lanka between 2020 and 2022. This has significantly impacted implementation of projects in Sri Lanka that led to reduction in budgetary support to Sri Lanka. However, with various high profile infrastructure projects are under tendering stage, project implementation and consequently allocation and utilisation of funds under Aid to Sri Lanka are expected to increase starting FY 2023-24.

4.54 Regarding the manner in which the decline in budgetary allocation would affect the ongoing projects in Sri Lanka, the Ministry has stated that reduction in budget outlay will not impact ongoing implementation of projects, namely UDI project, Indian Housing units, MRCC and Floating Dock projects as necessary budgetary requirements for the remaining part of CFY has already been factored into. Other prominent projects namely 3 Island Hybrid project, Indian Housing Units Phase IV and Promotion of Buddhist ties are expected to be implemented in the next FY and accordingly, budgetary projections are made.

4.55 The Ministry has further stated that it is important to highlight that our developmental assistance to Sri Lanka is not limited to only grant from the Ministry. As Sri Lanka endeavours to come out of economic crisis, India has extended over USD 4.0 billion loan to aid economic stability in last 1.5 years. Thus credit support by GoI is not reflected in Ministry's grant figures.

4.56 On the utilization of budget allocation for various projects in BE 2022-23, the Ministry has stated that about 80% of allocated resources have been utilised for Phase III of Indian Housing Project, 10% for MRCC project and 60% for HICDP projects. By March 2023, 100% of allocated fund for Jaffna Cultural Centre and Viability Gap funding towards resumption of

flights between Chennai and Jaffna will be utilised. Remaining projects are at preliminary stages of implementation and hence funds are yet to be utilized.

4.57 Enumerating on the various projects that have been initiated and completed during the last financial year, the Ministry has informed that projects such as Viability Gap Funding towards resumption of Chennai – Jaffna flight and few small-scale projects under High Impact Community Development Projects will be completed during the financial year 2022-23. Jaffna Cultural Center (JCC), the iconic project has been constructed with GoI's assistance at the cost of US\$ 11.35 million. The project was inaugurated by EAM on 28 March 2022.

4.58 While tendering evidence before the Committee on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary enumerated the challenges faced in the utilization of budgetary allocations in Sri Lanka due to the dire economic situation prevailing in the country and the efforts being made in this regard as under:

"A very unusual unique challenge is there in Sri Lanka in the current circumstances. Our assistance to Sri Lanka is roughly 4 billion, out of which 600 millions are grants. As you also observed, Sri Lanka's economic crisis has posed a particular challenge in terms of dispersal and incurring of expenditure. We also have provided special credit assistance of 4 billion as loan in last year, which has an element of lines of credit, buyers' credit, currency's form, deferment of ACU's payment. ACU stands for Asian Clearing Union. There are about eight/nine countries which are members of ACU. Sri Lanka is a member of Asian Clearing Union. It is a way to help them to manage the landing of their exports etc. Our upcoming projects there are connectivity projects in terms of ferry services between the Indian and Sri Lankan ports. We are also trying to put in place an institutional framework for settlement of trade in India rupee. This would be a significant effort in the next year for us not just for Sri Lanka, but for many other countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UAE and other such countries. The idea is that if these countries are running into economic problems, you can still trade on rupee basis. You do not have to rely on

hard currency. Many of the countries like Bangladesh are facing the crunch of hard currency. You take it into a rupee-based trade. It facilitates freeze up space for them to trade in their goods etc.”

4.59 Regarding new projects to be taken up by the Ministry in Sri Lanka, the Foreign Secretary submitted:

“We are doing renewable energy projects. We are also looking at a power line between Sri Lanka and India. Phase IV of housing project of 15,000 number is there. We have another 10,000 in pipeline. Refinery projects are in the pipeline. There are fuel bunkering units which are in the pipeline. So, a series of projects are there”.

4.60 The Committee note that the Budgetary Allocation under 'Aid to Sri Lanka' has been reduced since 2020-21 as implementation of projects had been impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic followed by unprecedented economic crisis in that country. The economic crisis has also posed a challenge in terms of disbursement and utilization of funds as well as currency crunch in the country. The Committee further note that the Government is trying to put in place an institutional framework for settlement of trade in Indian Rupee so that even in the absence of hard currency, trade may not be disrupted. In the opinion of the Committee, such a mechanism which facilitates trade in Indian rupee would be beneficial, not only for Sri Lanka but for other countries in the neighbourhood as well, that are facing economic crisis. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to finalize all the modalities, in consultation with other Departments and Agencies concerned, at the earliest in this regard. The Progress made to advance the prospects of trade settlement with partner countries in Indian Rupee, especially in countries of our neighborhood may be communicated to the Committee within three months.

(Recommendation No. 44)

4.61 The Committee note that a series of new projects like renewable energy projects, power line between Sri Lanka and India, housing projects, refinery projects, fuel bunkering units, etc. are in the pipeline with Sri Lanka. Moreover, various other high profile infrastructure projects are under tendering stage. The Committee desire that all such projects should be finalized and implemented during the FY 2023-24.

(Recommendation No. 45)

V. Aid to Myanmar

4.62 An Allocation of Rs. 600.00 crore was made under this Head during BE 2022-23. However, the allocation has been reduced to Rs. 500.00 and Rs. 400.00 crore at RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 respectively. There is a drop of 33.33% under this Head.

4.63 Explaining the reasons for reduced allocations under this Head, the Ministry has stated that about Rs. 49 crore was COVID related aid to Myanmar and Rs. 31 crore of foodgrains have been sent to Myanmar during the last Financial Year. While the BE for 2022-23 was based on expenditure incurred during the last FY, RE 2022-23 allocation was reduced based on actual pace of project implementation and budget utilization pattern in current Financial Year and also taking into consideration the challenging security situation in Myanmar. BE 2023-24 has been projected as Rs. 400 crore on the basis of anticipated expenditure to be incurred during the forthcoming next FY.

4.64 When enquired whether the allocated funds are adequate for the completion/ progress of the projects, the Ministry has informed that due to the ongoing security situation in Myanmar, pace of work in our projects such as Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway have been impacted. The revised allocation of the budget will be used for completion of the ongoing projects in view of the security situation.

4.65 The Committee were keen to know how the ongoing political turmoil affects our developmental projects in Myanmar, they have been informed that ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar has impacted the pace of implementation of our projects in the country including in Chin State, Sagaing Region and Rakhine State. The Ministry is in constant touch with the concerned authorities in Myanmar to secure their support for ensuring smooth and expeditious implementation of our projects.

4.66 On a further query regarding the diplomatic efforts being made/contemplated to overcome the challenges in the execution of project due to the ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar, the Ministry has responded that it is in constant touch with the concerned authorities in Myanmar to secure their support for ensuring smooth and expeditious implementation of development projects being undertaken by India. Diplomatically, this matter has been discussed at the highest level with Myanmar including during the recent virtual meeting between the Minister for Tourism, Culture and DoNER, and Myanmar's Minister for Border Affairs in February 2023. The issue of security of our projects was also taken up with senior leadership of Myanmar during Foreign Secretary's visit to Myanmar in November 2022.

4.67 When asked about the progress of Kaladan Project, which will connect India's eastern seaboard with Myanmar's Sittwe Port and the timeline for completion of the project, the Ministry has stated that Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT) is a strategic connectivity project to connect the

eastern ports of India with Myanmar by developing a port at Sittwe on the western coast of Myanmar and linking the Sittwe port with Kaladan river channel and road to the Mizoram State of India. The project has two components: (i) Waterways component and (ii) Roadways component.

(i) Waterways component: The construction of port and inland water transport was completed in Dec 2018. All works required for operationilazation of port, has been completed now and Sittwe port is now ready for commissioning. Trial run from Sittwe port (Myanmar) was conducted successfully on 13 January 2023.

(ii) Road component: The Road component of KMMTT includes a new greenfield road project of 109.2 km to be built from Paletwa in Myanmar to Zorinpui on India-Myanmar border (Mizoram) to double-lane NH specifications. The work was awarded to EPI-C&C JV [joint venture of Engineers Projects (India) Limited and C&C Construction Co. Ltd.] on 17 March 2017. Due to slow progress and bankruptcy of lead partner of JV. The contract has been terminated.

4.68 Ministry of External Affairs has appointed IRCON International as New Project Executing agency for execution of the project at the cost of Rs. 1780 crore. Agreement with IRCON was signed on 7th March 2022 . IRCON has awarded contract for 40 km stretches from Paletwa end (Myanmar) i,e km 0 – km 40 and also for km 99 – km 109 (from Zorinpui end). Work has now been started in km 0 – km 10 section (i.e from Paletwa, Myanmar end). Surveying and site works has been started in km 10- km 40 section (Myanmar end) and in km 109 – km 99 (Zorinpui, Mizoram end).

4.69 The status of the various ongoing, completed and projects under progress in Myanmar since the last three Financial Years is as under:-

I. Trilateral Highway road connectivity Project in Myanmar: India has undertaken two projects in Myanmar under the Trilateral Highway that starts

from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar (Total length of 1360 kms) on the request of Government of Myanmar.

(a) Construction of 112 kms of Kalewa-Yagyi road section to highway standard: Construction work in the project is underway since May 2018. M/s National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the project. Current Physical progress is 43 %. The first phase of the project (55 km stretch) is targeted to be handed over to Government of Myanmar in March 2023.

(b) Construction of 69 Bridges on Tamu-Kyigone Kalewa (TKK) section of 150 kms: The project was approved in December 2015 at the estimated cost of Rs.371.58 crore. The contractor for implementing the project was appointed on 28 November 2017. Contract was terminated on 24 December 2018 in view of Nil progress. Manipur high court on 20.08.2020 dismissed the contractor's appeal and upheld the termination. The DPR for 69 Bridges has been updated on cost and technical parameters. NHAI on 28.02.2022, has been appointed as new Technical Executing Agency. Agreement with NHAI was signed on 23 March 2022. NHAI has invited tender on 14.07.2022 for selection of Executing Agency/ working contractor. NHAI has finalised the Technical bid on 02.12.2022. Finalization of Financial bid is under process.

II. India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS): The Government of India (GoI) has been assisting the Government of Myanmar (GoM) for establishing and running the IMCEITS in Yangon since 2008. The project has gone through four phases. IMCEITS was set up with GoI's financial assistance by CDAC in 2008.

- Phase I of the project encompassed the setting up of the IMCEITS as a premier institution for advanced ICT training in Myanmar and issuance of joint certifications to the graduates. Joint certification to students by IMCEITS and CDAC continued till April 2010 as per the terms of the MoU between India and Myanmar.
- During the Phase-II (2013-2017), CDAC upgraded hardware of the Centre and accredited IMCEITS as CDAC's ATC with effect from April 2014 to March 2017.
- During Phase-III (2017-2020), IMCEITS was accredited as CDAC's ATC for a further period of 3 years. A total of 2764 students have graduated

from the center and 80-90 % have got jobs in various IT related companies in Myanmar.

- Fourth phase of the project (2021-24) is currently ongoing. IMCEITS is an Authorised Training Center of CDAC. The courses include, Professional Diploma in Java, MS. NET, Android Programming, Web Technology and Certificate in Linux. 24th Batch at IMCEITS started with one course - Professional Diploma in Java Programming (DJP) from 25 April 2022 and concluded on 14 October 2022.

III. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), Mandalay: The Bilateral MoU for setting up of MIIT was signed between India and Myanmar in May 2012. The project was approved in March 2015 at a total cost of Rs 125.15 crore. International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) was appointed as the Project Management Consultant. An Addendum to the Agreement has been signed in August 2020 for extending the agreement with IIITB till November 2021. The MoU for the project has been further extended till May 2023. After more than a year of suspension (since March 2020) due to Covid and internal development in Myanmar, the classes at MIIT finally resumed in May 2021. However, the ongoing situation in Myanmar has further impacted the reopening. An Addendum has been signed for extending the hand-holding by IIITB for MIIT till May 2023. IIITB will conduct 2 online and 2 on site faculty development programmes for MIIT by May 2023 (the cut off date for handing over). IIITB has conducted the first online faculty development programme in September 2022.

IV. Supply of 10000 MT of rice and 200 MT of wheat to Myanmar: MEA has also successfully supplied of 10000 Mts of rice and 200 Mts of wheat to Myanmar as humanitarian assistance in May 2022.

4.70 The Foreign Secretary made the following submission relating to India's development cooperation with Myanmar during the course of evidence on 21 February 2023:

"The other country which I have highlighted where there is one of the projects, is Myanmar where our development cooperation portfolio is roughly Rs.16,000 crore, which is roughly 2 billions. Most of the projects are undertaken in the form of grants. This is the stretch of India- Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, which we are doing, which is struggling because of the challenges relating to insurgency within Myanmar. The projects which have been successfully completed

is the Sittwe Port. It is a part of Kaladan Multimodal Transport. It has a road component, water component. The water component, in terms of infrastructure is complete. Trial run of the cargo has already been completed. We are well on our way to work on this. Sir, this is one area and it is not limited to Myanmar. It applies to all the other projects also where one of the great strengths we have had is the Inter Ministerial Cooperation. In each of these projects, I need the entire Government of India co-option on boarding to be able to successfully carry out and execute these projects on the ground. I must confess that this has been actually very, very a great strength in implementation of many of our projects”

4.71 The Committee note that the RE 2022-23 under ‘Aid to Myanmar’ was reduced to Rs. 500 crore from the BE Allocation of Rs. 600 crore based on actual pace of project implementation and budget utilization pattern and also taking into consideration the challenging security situation in Myanmar. The BE 2023-24 has been pegged at Rs. 400 crore on the basis of anticipated expenditure to be incurred during the Financial Year. The Committee further note that due to the ongoing security situation in Myanmar, pace of work in the developmental projects including Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway have been impacted. The Committee desire that the pace of project implementation should gain momentum in the post COVID world and hence urge the Ministry to step up its diplomatic efforts with the authorities in Myanmar to secure their support for smooth and expeditious implementation of all the ongoing development projects in that country.

(Recommendation No. 46)

VI. Aid to ITEC

4.72 This Head provides for expenditure on defence and civilian training

programmes for foreign candidates, deputation of Indian experts to other countries and technical assistance to developing countries. Under this Head, the budgetary allocation for BE 2022-23 was Rs. 167.70 crore which was reduced to Rs. 125.00 crore at the RE stage. An allocation of Rs. 150.00 crore has been allocated during BE 2023-24.

4.73 On being asked to furnish the details of ITEC training modules/programmes at present, ITEC trainings conducted and institutions/countries benefited during the last three years and in 2022-23, the Ministry has stated that 188 menu-based courses are approved to be offered to ITEC partner countries for the CFY and 161 countries and 18 Secretariats have benefitted during the last 3 years. The details of the ITEC training modules offered in the CFY and the List of countries benefitted during the last three years may be seen Annexures II and III.

4.74 Regarding the requests for customized courses received during 2022-23, the Ministry has stated that 63 in-person/physical courses and 19 e-ITEC/ virtual courses have been approved for requests from partner countries for customised courses. The details are at Annexure IV.

4.75 Enumerating on the magnitude of ITEC training programmes being run by India, the Foreign Secretary during the course of evidence on 21 February 2023, stated as under:

“I have already spoken about the ITEC programmes which we run.....all over the world. I think, the total numbers would be around 89,000 all over the world. Those are the number of scholarships that we run. We are trying to graduate to full-fledged degree programmes online. We have conceptualised it but its still sometime away but we are trying to get into that space also for some of the countries where there is a demand for these projects to be done. In the financial year 2022-23, we conducted 225 in-person courses with roughly 6700 slots this year in 39 customized countries”.

4.76 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry has carried out any overall structural review/assessment regarding the impact of ITEC programmes, they have been informed that the Ministry undertakes regular reviews of the structure and functioning of ITEC programme, along with assessing the impact of the trainings programmes. On an institutional footing, a comprehensive review of the ITEC programme along with a review of the list of participating institutions on the basis of their specific experience, performance and impact was conducted from November 2017 - March 2018, as per the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants for the year 2016-17.

4.77 Some of the major outcomes of the comprehensive review were as follows:

- 66 institutes were inspected out of 68 against a standard check list drawn for this purpose; 7 institutes were discontinued for various reasons. Several eminent institutions, like IITs, IIMs and Central Training Institutes and Higher Education Institutes were included in the ITEC programme, to bring the total list of institutes to approximately 100 as of date.
- ITEC portal including the database was comprehensively updated with latest course offerings. Better alumni engagement modalities like personalised emails and greetings were initiated. Missions were instructed to maintain closer engagement with alumni through modalities like celebration of ITEC Day, pre-departure orientation briefings etc.
- Inputs from more than 70 countries/Missions regarding process improvement and better courses were incorporated.
- Daily allowance was revised from approximately Rs 835 per day to Rs 1500 per day, so as to reduce boarding and lodging related inconveniences to ITEC trainees.
- New modalities like ITEC-Executive (aimed at DG/JS and above level officers), e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite were introduced to make the ITEC programme more impactful.

4.78 As one of the world's longest running structured capacity building programme (started in 1964), ITEC is now an important strand of India's Development Partnership. The popularity of ITEC programme may be assessed at the large number of requests received for customised courses each year, as also the extremely positive assessments received at forums such as Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Commission Meetings, HOMs conferences and during the incoming and outgoing visits of VVIPs.

4.79 Regarding feedback mechanism in existence from the participant countries on the quality and relevance of the programmes, the Ministry has stated that our Missions regularly engage with host Governments to better understand their requirements for capacity building and training requests. Institutes also seek feedback from participants regarding the quality and relevance of trainings. Testimonials and feedback from participants are regularly posted on the ITEC website and social media.

4.80 The Committee note that ITEC has been one of the world's longest running structured capacity building programme and has now evolved as an important strand of India's Development Partnership. For the current Financial Year, 188 courses are approved to be offered to ITEC partner countries and during the last three years 161 countries and 18 Secretariats have been benefitted from ITEC programmes. In respect of customised courses, 63 in-person/physical courses and 19 e-ITEC/ virtual courses have been approved for partner countries. The Ministry has also stated that it is trying to graduate to full-fledged online degree programmes . The Committee are further happy to note that ITEC programmes have gained popularity and the positive feedback from participants posted on the ITEC website and social media is testimony to it. ITEC being an integral part of India's development partnership, the Committee desire that new training modules catering to the specific

requirements of partner countries should be evolved to make the programme more relevant and impactful. The Committee also urge the Ministry to work out the modalities for a full-fledged ITEC online degree programme in collaboration with the various stakeholders so that the same is introduced at the earliest. The feedback from participants in the training programme may also be incorporated in the training modules to the extent possible.

(Recommendation No. 47)

VII. Aid to African Countries

4.81 Under the Head 'Aid to African Countries', the BE 2022-23 was Rs. 250.00 crore which was reduced to Rs.160.00 crore at RE 2022-23. The Budgetary Allocation has been kept at the same level of Rs. 250.00 crore in BE 2023-24.

4.82 The Committee in their 8th Report as well as their 12th Report on Demands for Grants have been expressing disappointment over the declining trend of allocation to the African countries. In their 12th Report, the Committee had strongly recommended that enhanced allocation must be provisioned for this Head. Keeping in mind the geographical extent and significance of the Africa region, the Committee enquired as to why enhanced allocation was not requested for under this Head. In response, the Ministry has stated that the expenditure is generally incurred on Setting up of Institutes; Various Scholarships/Training Programmes including under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) -III; ICCR Scholarships; Food Aid; Medical aid including for equipment; Books; Vehicles; Events/Seminars/Studies/Visits; Cash Grants; Cultural Exchange Programmes, etc. For the Financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 250 crore was allocated at BE stage under the Head, which was reduced to Rs. 160 crore at RE Stage.

4.83 The overall projection of funds for the financial year 2022-23 by E&SA Division under the Head 'Aid to African Countries' were made with a view to incur expenditure on setting up/upgrade of various institutes, capacity building training programmes & scholarships (short term and long term), providing medical-aid/books/vehicles/food-aid and organising events/seminars/ studies/ visits/cultural exchange programmes, etc. as have been committed during the IAFS-I, IAFS-II and IAFS-III and had been ongoing. We also expected IAFS-IV to be held in the period. However, due to the prolonged COVID-19 Pandemic situation world over since March 2020 which continued during the year 2022 also, including in African countries and India, most of these activities slowed down resulting in lesser expenditure and therefore, reduction in allocation under the Head to Rs. 160 crore for the financial year 2022-23 at RE stage. The Ministry was able to incur expenditure of Rs. 86.88 crore on ICCR Scholarships and C.V. Raman Researchers Fellowships Scheme; Rs. 13.02 crore on e-VBAB Network Project; Rs. 4.11 crore on cultural exchanges; Rs. 2.10 crore on gifting of 200 Laptops to the Parliament of Malawi; Rs. 1.20 crore on upgradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre in Zimbabwe; Rs. 0.80 crore on establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Rwanda; and Rs. 0.94 crore on equipment and vehicles to African countries. The funds mostly projected for setting up of various institutions, training programmes, and visits under various programmes for distinguished visitors including to be undertaken by XP Division of the Ministry, could not be utilised, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation and travel restrictions. The project cost of e-VBAB Network Project has also been reduced from Rs. 951.22 crore to Rs. 300.58 crore, due to various technological and regulatory changes from time to time. However, the commitments made during IAFS-III are still being achieved, with slashed budget. Notwithstanding, in the remaining period of

the Current Financial Year, the Ministry expects to incur expenditure on various assistance projects in African countries including for capacity building, education, medical-aid, equipment and vehicles, food-aid, cultural exchanges, etc. The Ministry will seek allocation of more funds on need basis.

4.84 Explaining the reasons for delay in setting up of projects committed under IAFS-I, II& III and the remedial steps taken, the Ministry submitted that it has faced considerable challenges in the implementation of the proposals to set up institutions in Africa. These include: long delays in decision making on choice of locations by host institutions (by the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities or the countries selected); sub-optimal choice of locations in several cases by host countries; lack of interest/ inability to deliver in several designated host countries; lack of funds with the host countries (mostly LDCs) to provide land/building/running costs as per the terms and conditions of the partnership model; internal conflicts and civil unrest. Despite these challenges, a total of 8 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Africa have been established. 7 IT Centers, a CGARD Center, an Entrepreneurship Development Centre, upgraded a Technology Centre and set up several other capacity building institutions have also established. A number of projects are under various stages of implementation. As part of grant assistance, India has also provided medicines, medical equipment, ambulances, vehicles, NCERT books, vehicles, food grains, etc. to several African countries. Over US \$ 700 million has been incurred on various grant projects in Africa, since IAFS-III.

4.85 On the status of IAFS -IV, the Ministry has informed that it was expected to be held in September 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Ministry endeavors to hold the IAFS-IV at the earliest suitable opportunity in consultation with the African Union Commission (AUC).

4.86 When asked to furnish a status note on Pan Africa e-network Project along with the allocation and 'Actuals' for the last five years, the Ministry has responded that the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati Network Project (e-VBAB) project was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2015, for a period of 5 years from 2016-21, with a project cost of Rs. 951.22 crore. The e-VBAB project is a technological upgradation and extension of the earlier Pan Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP). The e-VBAB project provides tele-education and tele-medicine services through the medium of internet using specially developed web-based platforms, as against through Satellite communication in PAeNP. An MoU was signed with TCIL in September 2018, for implementing the project with a project cost of Rs. 865 Cr.

4.87 Though the Cabinet approved period for implementing the e-VBAB project is from 2016-2021, because of change in implementation modality from satellite based service delivery to internet based service delivery, and the evolving concept of online education in India with UGC approving the first set of Universities eligible to offer online degrees as recent as in January 2020, the e-VBAB project could be launched only in October 2019 and the actual implementation started in January 2020. So far, 22 African countries have joined the project, by signing country MoUs.

4.88 e-Vidya Bharati: The project aims to provide 15000 free education/scholarships over a period of 5 years to African learners for Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes in various disciplines. So far, 27 Indian universities (10 Government and 17 Private) have been empanelled under the project, which are offering over 300 ONLINE UG/PG/ Diploma/ Certificate Courses in various disciplines including business administration and commerce, healthcare, tourism, humanities and arts. So far, scholarships have been awarded to 14,390 African students, who have been pursuing online higher education from

Indian Universities. With this, only 610 scholarships are remaining to be offered, which will be offered this year.

4.89 e-AarogyaBharati: The e-VBAB Network Project also aims to offer Tele-Medicine services namely Continuing Medical Education (TM-CME) and Tele-Consultations (TM-TC) in the African countries through select Super Speciality Hospitals/Institutions from India. The tele-medicine component of the project is yet to be launched. The portal for offering tele-medicine is expected to be launched soon. It may be noted here that Tele-education has been the primary focus of the e-VBAB project with 92.5 % of the project budget allocated to tele-education and only 7.5% of the budget allocated to tele-medicine.]

4.90 When enquired about the expected timeline for launching the tele-medicine component of the project, the Ministry has stated that Division is in the process of finalizing various modalities for implementation of the Tele-Medicine component of the project considering the geographical and legal challenges involved in inter-country tele-consultations. Further, Ministry is in the process of finalizing the courses, creation of content and identifying the specialties, hospitals in India as well as partner hospitals in Africa, etc. Ministry and the Implementing Agency are working on the tender document for finalizing an agency to create a dedicated portal for offering Tele-Consultation and Continued Medical Education. An inter-Ministerial meeting, in this regard, will also be held soon to further discuss the modalities and the way forward.

4.91 The project was allocated a budget of Rs. 951.22 crore for implementation for a period of five years (2016-21). The project could be implemented only from January 2020 and was extended till December 2024 (5 years) with a Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 300.58 crore.

4.92 On being asked about the countries that are beneficiaries of the Project, time and cost overrun in the Project during last two years and original time and cost details, the Ministry has informed that so far, 22 African countries have signed MoUs with M/s TCIL, the implementing agency, and have been benefitting from the project. There has been time overrun without any cost overrun in the project. As the e-VBAB project period was 5 years from 2016-21, because of continuous change in scope of work of the project due to technological and regulatory changes from time to time, the project could be launched only October 2019 and the actual implementation started in January 2020. Since the implementation started only in January 2020, as envisaged in the Cabinet approval, the project has to be implemented for a period of 5 years (i.e. till 2024). Accordingly, Division has obtained the approval of competent authority for extension of the project till December 2024 at a reduced Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 300.58 Cr, Moreover, since there has been a significant change in scope of work, a fresh appraisal and approval process has also been undertaken by the Division. It is pertinent to note here that due to the cautious approach taken by the Ministry in implementing the project taking into account the evolving technological and regulatory changes, there were huge savings to the tune of Rs. 650 Crore and the Revised Cost Estimate for the project is now only Rs. 300.58 Crore. Hence, there has been time overrun without any cost overrun. On the contrary, there have been huge savings to Government of India.

4.93 Regarding the response of the remaining African countries towards the e-VBAB Project, the Ministry has informed that the remaining African countries have not shown interest to join the project, some because of language issues [Francophone, Lusophone, Arabic, etc. countries], as the courses offered by Indian Universities under the project are in English language; and others because they are not yet ready to recognise degrees

issued through online education. Few countries have expressed willingness to participate and discussions are ongoing with these countries to finalize a mutually agreeable text of the MoU.

4.94 The Foreign Secretary highlighted the challenges being faced in execution of projects relating to Lines of Credit in Africa during evidence on 21 February 2023 as under:

“There is a misconception that we do not spend money in Africa..... During COVID, some of these economies took a very heavy hit on their economic structure. This is a challenge. There are 17 high risk countries like Angola, Sierra Leone, Myanmar, Mozambique, etc. These are all countries where we have substantial projects. So, we find that because of the high risk, some of the line of credit projects which then have a bearing on interest equalisation amount that I provide, we are not able to proceed on them as quickly as we want. This is just for information to give you a sense that challenges in Africa are unique. Sir, you would appreciate that these are challenges which are typical to that continent. When we position our budget there, we have to be mindful of it. If I am giving a 100-million-dollar line of credit, I have to ensure that my line of credit succeeds and delivers the ground project. On the grant projects, on the capacity building projects, on ITEC projects, our projects in Africa have been exceptionally successful if I was to understand. But some of these projects relating to LOC have been a challenge”.

4.95 The Committee note that under the Head 'Aid to African Countries', the BE 2022-23 of Rs. 250 crore was reduced to Rs.160 crore at RE stage as implementation of most of the projects/activities slowed down resulting in lesser expenditure and subsequent reduction in allocation due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Budgetary Allocation has been kept at the same level of Rs. 250.00 crore in BE 2023-24. Under projects relating to Line of Credit (LoC), the Ministry is facing challenges as there are 17 high risk countries in Africa. The

Committee further note that there has been delay in setting up of institutions in Africa as per the commitments under the India- Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)-I,II & III due to various problems in the host countries. Moreover, the IAFS –IV which was expected to be held in September 2020 was also postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee desire that in the post COVID world, all out efforts should be made by the Government for expeditious execution of projects including LoC projects in African countries and also for fulfilling all commitments under the IAFS . The Committee further desire that consultations with the African Union Commission may also be initiated without delay for holding of IAFS –IV and the outcome may be shared with the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 48)

4.96 The Committee note that the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati Network Project (e-VBAB) project, approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2015, for a period of 5 years from 2016-21, with a project cost of Rs. 951.22 crore provided tele-education and tele-medicine services through the medium of internet using specially developed web-based platforms. Under the tele-education component, scholarships have been awarded to 14,390 African students, who have been pursuing online higher education from Indian Universities while the tele-medicine component of the project is yet to be launched. The Ministry has stated that it is in the process of finalizing the courses, creation of content and identifying the specialties, hospitals in India as well as partner hospitals in Africa, etc. It is also working on the tender document for finalizing an agency to create a dedicated portal for offering Tele-Consultation and Continued Medical Education with the Implementing Agency.

The Ministry has further informed that an inter-Ministerial meeting will be held soon to discuss the modalities and the way forward. The Committee note the delay in launching the tele-medicine component of the e-VBAB project though it was approved way back in 2015 and urge the Ministry to commence discussion on the modalities so that the same may be finalized and implemented at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 49)

CHAPTER-V

ASSISTANCE TO AUTONOMOUS BODIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Allocation under this head is towards Ministry's Grants-in-Aid to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and other institutions such as International Society of International Law. The allocations made to these institutions are given below:

Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and other Institutions				
Sl.No.	Name	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
1.	ICCR	320.00	320.00	345.21
2.	ICWA	14.81	14.24	14.02
3.	RIS	14.59	14.59	16.64
4.	India Centre for Migration	1.00	-	0.00
5.	Other Institutions	4.50	3.63	4.63

(Rs. in crores)

5.2 The actual assistance given to each autonomous institution during the last three years and during 2022-23 is as under:

Years	Actual ICCR	Actual ICWA	Actual RIS	Actual ICM	Actual Other Institutions
2019-20	250.00	15.00	12.00	0.00	3.32
2020-21	217.50	11.83	11.48	0.00	1.48
2021-22	148.35	12.01	22.81	0.00	3.85
2022-23	240.00	9.95	16.59	0.00	1.97

(Rs. in crores)

*** actuals are up to December 2022**

5.3. The Committee enquired about the role played by MEA in these institutions and the contributions of these institutions in carrying out the foreign policy goals. In response, it has been informed that the Ministry of External Affairs, India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian Culture through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. MEA accept the strategic significance of the work done by ICCR through public and cultural diplomacy as among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy and therefore, Heads of Mission attach top priority and importance to the task of projecting cultural heritage and assets of India. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned. Activities of ICCR contribute substantially towards overall formulation of India's foreign policy.

5.4 Apart from its annual financial support, MEA continues to be actively involved in the work programme of ICWA and RIS so that it is aligned to the evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals. EAM is the Vice-President of the Governing Council and a member of the Governing Body of ICWA. Foreign Secretary is a member of both the Governing Body and the Governing Council of ICWA. Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA attend the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS and share their vision which forms a vital part of the work programme of RIS.

5.5 At the functional level, PP&R Division maintains regular contact with ICWA and RIS. It also coordinates with various divisions of the Ministry where inputs and programmatic & research support might be required from ICWA and RIS. Senior officials of the MEA participate in the wide range of conferences, dialogues and workshops organized by ICWA and RIS on core

areas of India's interest in geopolitics, geo-economics, trade, finance, development, neighborhood connectivity and South-South Cooperation and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

5.6 MEA also works with ICWA and RIS to hold track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues so as to promote India's foreign policy objectives. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.

5.7 Both ICWA and RIS play an important role towards the promotion of India's foreign policy goals in the field of regional and international trade, finance, development, science, technology and innovations. ICWA performs three principal functions - a) carry out research with a Foreign Policy focus; b) to act as a platform for discourse on foreign policy and international affairs and maintains a robust publication programme; and c) outreach with like-minded institutions nationally and internationally. In each of these three aspects, ICWA brings to bear focus on 'Area Studies', as a distinct body of research.

5.8 RIS by virtue of its convening power and regional and global network of partner institutions, vigorously promotes India's narrative on issues of India's core interest in the backdrop of growing threats to multilateralism and rising protectionism. Its focus is on issues confronting the Global South, enabling MEA to cultivate this important constituency in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which is extremely important to pave the way for the creation of market access opportunities for India in these countries.

I. INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR)

5.9 The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was formally set up in 1950, with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other

countries. Since then the activities of ICCR has increased manifold both in terms of number and nature of activities. Some of the new initiatives of ICCR include Gyan_Setu- connecting Culture through Knowledge, Gen-Next Programme under Distinguished Visitors Programme and organizing Blog competition on different subjects.

(ref. SLoP no. 41, para 1, page 41)

5.10 The BE and RE 2022-23 for ICCR was kept at the same level of Rs. 320 crore. An allocation of Rs. 345.21 crore has been made in BE 2023-24. Enhanced allocation in BE 2023-24 has been made with regard to RE 2022-23 on account of expanding research & academic activities, expanding scope of cultural diplomacy under ICCR as well as revision in scholarship rates, cultural hospitality norms etc for ICCR schemes and programmes. The major activities where enhance allocation has been made are:

- Welfare activities for foreign students
- Scholarship to foreign students
- Alumni Activities and Award
- Incoming Cultural Delegation
- G-20 cultural events
- Outgoing Cultural Delegation (OCD)
- Festivals abroad
- Bust & Statues of Indian historical figures
- Conference & Seminar
- Indian Cultural Centres abroad
- International Day of Yoga (IDY – 2023)
- ICCR Chairs abroad

5.11 Following are the details of Budgetary Allocation sought, actual allocation made and expenditure incurred by ICCR during the last three years:-

(Rs. In Crores)

Year	BE		RE		Actual
	Demand	Allocation	Demand	Allocation	
2019-20	330.79	250.00	310.83	250.00	250.00
2020-21	389.22	290.00	260.00	255.00	217.50
2021-22	300.00	300.00	239.74	239.74	148.35
2022-23	350.00	320.00	340.00	320.00	240.00*

*Up to December 2022

5.12 On being asked whether the allocated amount is sufficient to meet the expanding activities of ICCR, the Ministry has stated that against the Projected budget of Rs. 380.48 crores BE of Rs. 345.21 crores has been allocated by MEA which at present is reasonable to run the activities of ICCR, based on utilization pattern and anticipated activities in remaining of part of current financial year.

5.13 Regarding extra budgetary resources available with ICCR, the Ministry has stated that ICCR is fully funded by MEA through Grants-in-Aid. Except receipt from ICCs abroad on account of fee from local students, which is insignificant amount, ICCR has no further source of funding to run its activities.

5.14 When asked to state the efforts being made by ICCR to further generate additional resources, the Ministry has stated that the promotion of soft power and cultural diplomacy is not based on profit generation, hence primary funding for these depends on the Government funding. Further, in some countries local rules & regulations do not allow Missions/Culture Centres to engage in revenue generation/commercial activities. Nevertheless, with the new initiatives of MEA/ ICCR, one centre in Valladolid(Spain) has been established on Public-Private-Partnership model. Also ICCR encourages its cultural centres to charge nominal fee for courses being

conducted by them for local populace subject to local rules and regulations as applicable in the respective countries. Considering the soft power and cultural diplomatic activities being undertaken by other countries, it necessary that substantial Government funding should continue to sponsor pro-active and effective conduct of own soft power and cultural promotion.

5.15. With respect to the restructuring of ICCR, it was informed that ICCR had decided to merge seven Regional Offices namely Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Varanasi with the Zonal Offices on 1st July, 2022 under a Zonalization plan for ICCR. The work hitherto carried out by these Regional Offices is now being carried out by Zonal Offices. Consequent upon this restructuring, instead of 18, presently ICCR has its Zonal, Sub-Zonal and other offices in 11 cities of the country. Zonalization plan of CCR intends to bring in efficiency, economy and effectiveness in ICCR's operations in India and thus ensuring value for money.

5.16 The Committee observe that ICCR's Cultural Centres are the principal instrument of India's institutional outreach and enquired whether ICCR is in the process of opening more Indian Cultural Centers abroad during the upcoming financial year. The Ministry has responded that ICCR is now operating 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) abroad and is in the process of opening its new centre in Paris during the upcoming financial year. The renovation work of the property at U-Street in Washington has faced issues of structural challenges building including heavily laden asbestos roof and variance between local contracting laws and GFR Rules 2017. Notwithstanding, Ministry is taking steps for adequate utilization of property in Washington at the earliest.

5.17 The details of ICCR's cultural centres abroad are as under:-

- (ii) SVCC Tehran, Iran
- (iii) IGCIC Port Louis, Mauritius
- (iv) LBSCIC Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- (v) SVCC Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- (vi) SVCC Male, Maldives
- (vii) SVCC Colombo, Sri Lanka
- (viii) SVCC Kathmandu, Nepal
- (ix) SVCC Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- (x) IGCC Dhaka, Bangladesh
- (xi) NWCC Thimphu, Bhutan
- (xii) SVCC Yangon, Myanmar
- (xiii) SVCC Kabul, Afghanistan
- (xiv) JNICC Jakarta, Indonesia
- (xv) SVCC Bangkok, Thailand
- (xvi) SVCC Hanoi, Vietnam
- (xvii) SVCC Sub-Centre, Bali, Indonesia
- (xviii) SVCC Beijing, China
- (xix) NSCBICC Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- (xx) SVCC Seoul, South Korea
- (xxi) VCC Tokyo, Japan
- (xxii) SVCC Sydney, Australia
- (xxiii) SVCC Suva, Fiji
- (xxiv) TNC London, U.K.
- (xxv) SVCC Budapest, Hungary
- (xxvi) SVCC Prague, Czech Republic
- (xxvii) TGC The Hague, Netherlands
- (xxviii) TTC Berlin, Germany
- (xxix) ICC Tel Aviv, Israel
- (xxx) MACIC Cairo, Egypt
- (xxxi) SVCC Durban, South Africa
- (xxxii) JNCC Moscow, Russia
- (xxxiii) SVCC Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
- (xxxiv) SVCC Paramaribo, Suriname
- (xxxv) SVCC Sao Paulo, Brazil
- (xxxvi) SVCC Georgetown, Guyana
- (xxxvii) MGICC Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

(xxxviii)GTICC Mexico City, Mexico

5.18 The Ministry has also stated that there are 11 operational Chairs on different subjects in Croatia, Mauritius, Jamaica, Tajikistan, Papua and Guinea, Cambodia, Poland, Bangladesh, Iceland and UK. Additionally, 17 Chairs already established are in the process of being operationalized. Besides proposals for setting up of 09 more Chairs under consideration.

5.19 MEA recognize that Public and Cultural diplomacy are being among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy. As such, it accords top priority and importance to the task of projecting cultural heritage of India being achieved by ICCR through its centres and Chairs and other activities. Being useful for formulating the overall foreign policy of the Government is in itself a great achievement both for ICCR and its Cultural Centres.

5.20 On being asked to elaborate upon the procedure for opening of these centres abroad, the appointments made thereon and the role of the Ministry of External Affairs in the process, the Ministry has informed that the procedure for opening of Cultural Centres abroad depends upon the recommendation of the concerned Indian Mission abroad and also on the basis of bilateral relations between the two countries. Missions are required to send the detailed information including the following while sending the proposal by giving reasons and justifications for opening of ICCs:

- (a) Background information of Mission and proposed activities to be undertaken
- (b) Population of the country with details of persons of Indian origin
- (c) Area programme for ICC
- (d) Local formalities and approvals to be followed while opening ICCs
- (e) Details of running of other Foreign Cultural Centres in that country

- (f) Interest of General Public with regard to knowledge of India and its culture
- (g) Number of ICCR events organised by the Mission
- (h) Details of universities that have chair of Indian studies supported by ICCR

5.21 The ICCR deploys Directors, teachers of Yoga, Hindi & Performing Arts in the ICCs. While directors are deployed by three modes (1) nominated by President ICCR, (2) ICCR officials and (3) Open advertisement, selection of teachers is done through open advertisements. Engagement of support staff for administration, accounts & housekeeping are administratively managed locally by the Indian Missions. These procedures are followed diligently and no lapse has been pointed out in the procedure. The ICCR is administratively working under the Ministry of External Affairs and necessary guidance where ever necessary is always taken.

5.22 When asked about the total expenditure incurred on purchasing and renovating/ refurbishing the properties in Paris and Washington for setting up Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) and the reasons for huge delay in setting up these Centres despite purchasing the properties in 2011 and 2013 respectively, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:

“The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India is considered as an institution that is helpful in promoting good governance. Its findings are useful tools for all concerned, including the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), to further improve its performance. On 20.12.2022, the CAG tabled Union Government (Civil) Compliance Audit Observation Report No. 24 of 2022 in Parliament. The Report contains audit findings arising from compliance audit of financial transactions under 54 grants relating to 28 Civil Ministries/Departments/ Constitutional Bodies of the Union Government under the general and social services sectors and central public enterprises. The Report also has observations on setting up of Indian Cultural Centres in Paris and Washington.

The property for Indian Cultural Centre at Paris was purchased in the year 2011 whereas in Washington, it was purchased in 2013. These properties have faced certain challenges in preparing them for their intended use after their purchase, including delay during Covid period.

As per existing guidelines on outstanding Audit paras, Action Taken Notes (ATN) on paragraphs mentioned in the CAG Report are to be furnished to the PAC through e-APMS Portal. The ATN in respect of setting up of Indian Cultural Centre at Paris has been uploaded on 08.02.2023.”

5.23 The Committee enquired whether the ICCR has executed new process for admission of Foreign National on scholarship slots and whether the new system has helped ICCR in improving its academic and intellectual activities. They has been informed that in order to digitize various scholarship schemes administered by ICCR, an "A2A" (Admissions to Alumni) Portal was developed in 2018 to manage admissions of foreign students. The portal has been designed to keep all records of the students in a transparent manner.

5.24 The flow of the A2A portal through which admissions of foreign students are procured, is as under:

- Interested students apply on the A2A portal for the course he/she desires to pursue.
- Simultaneously he/she opts for 5 University/Institute where student desires to pursue the said course.
- The applications are received directly by the University/Institute, who accesses the same on the A2A portal (the log in Id/password of A2A portal for that particular University is available with them).
- University/Institute examines the applications and based upon the qualification of the student confirms the admission and upload the admission letter on A2A Portal.
- The admission confirmation letter is received by the Indian Mission/Post, who further offer the scholarship to the desired candidate based upon the availability of slots with them.
- After receiving the offer letter from the concerned Mission, student arrives in India and joins the desired course.
-

5.25 The portal consists of all relevant information available for students abroad including names and details of all State and Central Universities and Institutes, information like availability of hostels, availability of various

academic courses, guidelines, eligibility criteria etc. This information helps students in decision making while applying for Universities/Institutes of their choice in academic courses of their preference.

5.26 The launch of this portal helped digitalizing the entire admission process and improved the effectiveness of the very large scholarship programme which is administered by ICCR on behalf of MEA. The introduction of A2A portal has led to expeditious, time-bound, transparent and accountable method of admissions, as well as keeping track of academic progress of the student and financial management.

5.27 The details of Scholarship scheme wise slots available and the number of scholarship availed by the beneficiary countries for the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scholarship Scheme(s)	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Slots	Utilised	Slots	Utilised	Slots	Utilised
*1	Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme formerly General Scholarship Scheme	563	290	580	224	657	300
2	Bangladesh Scholarship Scheme for Bangladeshi nationals	100	94	100	100	100	59
*3	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme	26	12	26	10	26	9
4	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan nationals	60	37	60	16	60	7

*5	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme formerly CEP / EEP Scholarship Scheme	152	31	152	15	152	31
*6	Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Training in Indian Music and Dance	100	53	100	5	100	77
7	Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme for Nepal	64	38	64	36	64	60
*8	Ayush Scholarship Scheme for BIMSTEC Countries (To study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (available for students from all Countries, though priority is given to those from BIMSTEC Countries))+B30	30	25	30	36	30	24
9	Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme for Maldives nationals	20	1	20	2	20	3
10	Mekong Ganga Co-operation (MGC) Scholarship Scheme	50	28	50	16	50	17
11	Special Scholarship for Afghan nationals	1000	754	1000	730	1000	1000
12	Afghan National Defense & Security Forces Scheme started from 2018-19	39	39	19	19	260	260
*13	Africa Scholarship Scheme	908	506	927	667	908	794
14	Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme for Mongolia nationals	20	9	20	9	20	7

15	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan nationals	60	35	60	11	60	12
16	Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan nationals	50	34	50	18	50	35
17	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan nationals	25	20	25	3	25	6
18	India Scholarship (Bangladesh) Scheme for Bangladeshi nationals	100	80	100	75	100	100
19	Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme for Bhutanese nationals	20	20	20	18	20	20
20	Border Guard Bangladesh Scholarship Scheme (BGBSS) for Bangladeshi nationals started from 2017-18	20	13	20	12	20	7
*21	For Non BIMSTEC countries on behalf of Ayush Department to study in Indian Traditional Medicine System such as Ayurveda, Yoga Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy	25	10	20	11	25	21
*22	To study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (for Malaysian nationals)	20	2	20	0	20	1
*23	To study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries	29	19	29	16	29	18

*(It is mentioned that many of the scholarship schemes are country specific. So the utilization of scholarship by these countries is reflected in the above table. Scholarship schemes (marked *) under which multiple countries are allocated specific number of scholarships, a consolidated number of scholarship offered and utilized are noted against the relevant scholarship programme.)*

5.28 The Committee find that the Ministry of External Affairs, India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian culture through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. All activities of ICCR including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned contributing substantially towards overall formulation of India's foreign policy. The Committee understand that the ICCR is fully funded by MEA through Grants-in-Aid as the promotion of soft power and cultural diplomacy cannot be based on profit generation. As regards budget grants given to ICCR, the Committee observe that an allocation of Rs. 345.21 crore has been made in BE 2023-24 against the BE and RE 2022-23 of Rs. 320 crore. This enhanced allocation in BE 2023-24 to the tune of 25.21 crore has been made on account of expanding research & academic activities, expanding scope of cultural diplomacy under ICCR as well as the revision in scholarship rates, cultural hospitality norms, etc. However, the Committee are not sure about the adequacy of the allocation especially in view of the new initiatives of ICCR like 'Gyan-Setu' for connecting Culture through Knowledge, 'Gen-Next Programme', Blog competitions, etc. in addition to the revision in scholarship rates and cultural hospitality norms. Moreover, the soft power and cultural

diplomatic activities being undertaken by other countries are way above ours despite India aspiring to be a very strong soft power player in the years ahead. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their stance on augmented funding to ICCR to enable sponsoring proactive and effective conduct of our country's soft power and cultural promotion. The Committee also recommend that an assessment be made by the Ministry to find where our country stands in the global ranking of soft power projections as compared to major developed and developing countries.

(Recommendation No. 50)

5.29 The Committee are happy to find that in consonance with an earlier recommendation of theirs, ICCR has made efforts to re-organise its structure and accordingly merged seven Regional Offices, namely Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Varanasi with the Zonal Offices on 1st July, 2022. Consequent upon this restructuring, at present ICCR has its Zonal, Sub-Zonal and other offices only in 11 cities of the country instead of 18. This means that the work hitherto being carried out by the Regional Offices is now being carried out by Zonal Offices. While appreciating the restructuring of ICCR, the Committee further wish that the same will bring in the much required efficiency and effectiveness in ICCR's operations in India and ensure optimum utilization of the funds allocated.

(Recommendation No. 51)

5.30 The Committee observe that ICCR's Cultural Centres are the principal instrument of India's institutional outreach. As of now, ICCR is operating 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) abroad and is in the process of opening a new centre in Paris during the upcoming

financial year. The Committee further understand that the property acquired at U-Street in 2013 to set up ICCs in Washington is yet to be utilized due to structural challenges in the building and delay during COVID period. Recognizing that public and cultural diplomacy are among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should undertake a review of all its Cultural Centres to rationalize them with a view to identifying countries where we need to have a greater presence and requirement for increased linkages by establishing such centre. The Committee also hope that the new centre in Paris is opened as per timelines and the one at Washington too is made functional at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 52)

5.31 The Committee also note that there are 11 operational Chairs of ICCR on different subjects in the universities in Croatia, Mauritius, Jamaica, Tajikistan, Papua and Guinea, Cambodia, Poland, Bangladesh, Iceland and UK. In addition to them, 17 Chairs have already been established and are in the process of being operationalized. Further, the proposals for setting up of 09 more Chairs are under consideration. The Committee, while according top priority and importance to the task of projecting cultural heritage of India through ICCR, recommend that a review of the functioning of the academic chairs instituted by ICCR in foreign universities may be done with a view to assessing their achievements against the objectives of instituting them. The Committee may be apprised of the findings of such a review within three months of the presentation of this Report.

(Recommendation No. 53)

5.32 The Committee note that the ICCR has executed a new process for admission of Foreign National on scholarship slots and the same has helped ICCR in improving its academic and intellectual activities. It has been informed that the "A2A" (Admissions to Alumni) Portal was developed in 2018 to digitize various scholarship schemes administered by ICCR for foreign students. The Committee further understand that the portal consists of all relevant information including the details of State and Central Universities/Institutes, availability of various academic courses, guidelines, eligibility criteria, availability of hostels, etc., that help foreign students in making a decision while applying to Universities/Institutes. The Committee are happy that this portal has led to expeditious, time-bound and accountable method of admissions and brought in transparency to a very large scholarship programme offered by our country. However, the Committee note with concern that despite the introduction of A2A portal which digitized the entire admission process, a large number of scholarship slots are left unutilized over the years. Since these scholarships are meant to create goodwill about India and project to the world what India has to offer in the cultural and academic fields, it is not a discerning trend that the slots are not fully taken. The Committee, therefore desire that an independent study be made before the next academic intake to understand the reasons for the same so that improvement in the effectiveness of the scholarship programme is brought in without further delay.

(Recommendation No. 54)

B. INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA)

5.33 ICWA was established in 1943 as a think tank and was registered as a

non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Council has been declared an institution of national importance. The Hon'ble Vice President of India is ICWA's ex-officio President. ICWA is administered as per the provisions of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001. The budget for ICWA is provided by the PP&R Division, MEA.

5.34 The budgetary allocation ICWA for 2023-24 is Rs. 14.02 crore which is lower than the RE 2022-23. An outlay of Rs.14.81 crore was provided for ICWA during BE 2022-23 which has been reduced to Rs. 14.24 crore at the RE stage. The Ministry has stated that slightly reduced allocation in RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 as compared to BE 2022-23 has been made on account of expenditure trends.

5.35 The expenditure incurred during the last three financial years by ICWA is as under:-

(Rs. In Crores)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Actual Expenditure
1	2019-20	15.00
2	2020-21	11.83
3	2021-22	12.01
4	2022-23	9.95*

*upto December 2022

5.36 The Committee observe that despite the need for an in-depth study of international affairs and importance of Indian Council of World Affairs role in the same, the budget for ICWA has constantly been decreased since 2020-21 while ICCR (8%) and RIS (14.05%) have received substantial increase in the budget. Explaining the reason for the same, the Ministry has stated that the reduced expenditure during 2020-21 and 2021-22 was due

to COVID-19 pandemic. During this period most of the activities were held virtually and several activities could not take place. Physical events have resumed during 2022-23 and hence the expenditure has increased in 2022-23 compared to the trend of decreasing expenditure over the previous two years.

5.37 For the FY 2023-24, ICWA had sought Rs.15.34 crore and not Rs. 14.02 crore. The Ministry had to rationalize the demand for grants of all Divisions based on budgetary constraints. However, this may be reviewed at RE stage in case of requirement.

5.38 Further, it may be noted that no significant expenditure is expected in 2023-24 under the Head 'Capital' due to completion of the project of renovation of Library and Annexe Building in 2022-23.

5.39 The Ministry has stated that the ICWA has been successfully working to achieve its stated objectives since its inception and till date. To fulfill its mandated objectives, ICWA has undertaken a range of activities, which include research, publications, dialogues with international partners, holding of conferences, seminars, lectures, discussions and undertaking outreach activities. The publications include books, a flagship journal, commentaries, special publications, special reports, annual report, and discussion papers.

5.40 Regarding the details of conferences organized by ICWA and the tangible policy outcomes emerging out of them that were beneficial in framing foreign political agenda, the Ministry has stated that in last 3 years, since April 2020, ICWA has organized a total of 175 International and National Seminars/Bilateral dialogues/Lectures/ Panel discussions and book discussions in online, physical and hybrid mode. Some discussions were closed-door events with restricted participation to facilitate frank and candid interactions. Conferences held have resulted in knowledge-sharing and

better understanding of Global trends. In many of the conferences MEA representatives as well as representatives of Diplomatic Mission participated, interacted and enriched the discussions.

5.41 Specifying the research and academic activities undertaken by ICWA during the last three years, the Ministry has stated that the Research Activities include research and publications in form of Issue briefs, Viewpoints, Special reports, Sapru House Papers, Special papers, Journal and books. The Sapru House Papers and Books are externally reviewed by subject experts before those are sent for publications in order to ensure the rigour and quality of research. The Research Faculty of ICWA undertook study and research on major political, security, and economic trends and developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and the wider global geostrategic and economic environment, examining and analyzing their global and regional implications. The research papers are in form of Issue Briefs, View Points and Special Reports were published regularly on the website, which deal on topical issues having a bearing on Indian foreign policy interests. In the last three years the Council has published 204 Issue Briefs, 149 View points, and 8 Special reports.

5.42 The Committee note that the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) work in close coordination with MEA to address issues that are at the top of the foreign policy agenda and in making dialogues and discussions of MEA more policy effective and impactful. To fulfill its mandated objectives, ICWA has been undertaking a range of activities, which include research, publications, dialogues with international partners, holding of conferences, seminars, lectures, discussions and undertaking outreach activities. The Committee note that in the last 3 years, since April 2020, ICWA has organized a total of 175 International

and National Seminars/Bilateral dialogues/Lectures/ Panel discussions and book discussions in online, physical and hybrid mode. The publications of ICWA include Sapru House Papers, issue briefs, view points, special reports, journals and books. In the last three years the Council has published 204 issue briefs, 149 view points, and 8 special reports. As regards the allocation of funds, the Committee find that in the FY 2023-24, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 14.02 crore has been made for ICWA which is lower than the RE 2022-23 of Rs. 14.24 crore. The Ministry has stated in this regard that the slightly reduced allocation has been on account of expenditure trends. As regards the utilization trends, the Committee note that in 2019-20, ICWA had managed complete utilization of funds and in the next two years, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the actual spending had shown a decline. In FY 22-23, up to December 2022, the actual expenditure is Rs. 9.95 crore which is about 71% of the RE allocation. The Committee hope that the ICWA may be able to reach the pre COVID standards in utilization of funds as the activities of ICWA are in full steam now. The Committee also desire ICWA to play a more effective role in policy formulations of the Government while continuing focused studies on specific areas of Government's priorities.

(Recommendation No. 55)

C. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (RIS)

5.43 RIS is a think tank specializing in international economic relations and development cooperation, serving as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue among think tanks of developing countries. RIS was established in 1983 as a registered society. The Society was envisaged to

serve as a national focal point to identify and discuss priority areas of research concerning multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters. It was decided that the society will undertake research activities or may assign areas of research to specified national institutions. The society also forges effective links between research institutions of other Non-aligned and developing countries. It organizes discussions, seminars and workshops and involve research institutions of other countries in these undertakings. It advises the Government of India on all matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues as may be referred to from time to time. The Budget for RIS was also provided as a grant in aid by PP&R Division, MEA.

5.44 An outlay of Rs. 14.59 crore was earmarked for RIS during 2022-23 which was kept at the same level at the RE stage. The allocation under BE 2023-24 is Rs. 16.64 crore.

5.45 On being asked about the details of activities proposed to be taken up by RIS under the enhanced allocation, the Ministry has stated that during the year of India's Presidency of G20, RIS would attach special focus on India's development cooperation with Global South and Triangular Cooperation. It would intensify its effort to promote India's flagship grass root development-oriented programmes for their possible replication in the developing world, which would assist the country in the creation of larger commercial space for the Indian industry in partner countries. India's strides in the financial sector for inclusive growth and digital payment solutions along with increased use of Indian Rupees in regional trade would also get high priority in the work programme of RIS. Similarly, in the health sector, RIS would intensify support to the Ministry of Ayush in its efforts to map the network of AYUSH products and service sector as part of our larger objective of promoting Indian traditional medicines in the country and abroad. On

climate change, RIS would mobilize international public opinion through its interactions with national and global scholars to promote India's major global initiatives dedicated to mainstream LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to create and nurture a global network of 'Pro-Planet People' with a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly behaviour and to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable sustainable consumption. RIS would also utilize its network of national and global partner institutions to ensure that the priorities set by India during its G20 Presidency are carried forward beyond the Indian Presidency. As this year also coincides with the 40th anniversary of RIS, RIS plans to organize a global conference to promote the interests of the Global South with the help of its national and international partner institutions. On this occasion, RIS plans to launch an international centre of excellence in the country to guide the Global South for its accelerated economic growth through intensified South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

5.46 Simultaneously, RIS would continue its focus on issues of core interest to the country within the areas of its domain knowledge by bringing out evidence based policy research studies, policy briefs and research papers on emerging issues and organize a wide range of events (meetings, workshops, seminars, dialogues, interactions and conferences) within the country and abroad with eminent subject experts and other key stakeholders under the overall guidance and support of the Ministry of External Affairs to have deeper policy discussions on critical issues facing the country and the developing world. RIS would continue to pursue the task of organizing G20 lectures across the country in consultation with the Ministry to generate wider awareness about India's growing role at the regional and global level and the profound importance such global institutions attach to India's leadership in dealing with some of the key issues confronting humanity during these turbulent times. The products of these research and

engagement exercises will be published and disseminated through print and digital media in India and abroad.

5.47 RIS would enhance its focus on areas of its core competence such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs, South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, Climate Change and agriculture, Blue Economy, Digital Economy, e-Commerce, and India’s regional engagements such as with ASEAN, IBSA and BRICS, and the Indo-Pacific region including the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). In addition, it would conduct research work on the impact of Industrial Revolution 4.0 on developing countries and Trade in Services. All these issues would require intense engagement of RIS Faculty with national, regional and global research scholars and policy dialogues and discussions with them as part of its practical, evidence-based and rigorous research-based approach to bring out inputs needed by the government in the formulation of its growth and employment oriented national and international policy postures.

5.48 In overall terms, RIS would keep its work programme and priorities well aligned to the foreign policy goals of the country under the overall guidance of the Ministry.

5.49 The following is the actual expenditure incurred during the last three years under various Conferences/Dialogues and Special Plenary sessions conducted during these years:

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Rs.1,64,67,271.00	Rs.36,71,727.00 *	Rs. 1,19,41,652.00 *

*The expenditure came down due to the grave impact of Covid 19 preventing in-person interactions, meeting, conferences etc. within the country and abroad due to social distancing and travel restrictions

5.50 The Committee enquired about the exact role of RIS in providing intellectual support to the Policy Planning and Research Division of the Ministry. They have been informed that RIS remains in regular contact with PP&R Division and other Divisions in the MEA and carries forward its research programme well aligned to Government's evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals. RIS has a comprehensive programme of research collaboration with international organizations and academic bodies of other countries. The outcome of such collaboration is usually in the form of academic research, which is published in various indexed academic journals and is regularly shared by RIS with PP&R Division and gets reflected in its compendium for wider internal circulation among policy makers. These important inputs are also appropriately utilized by the Division in its bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices, preparation of research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular and in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Ministry. RIS also organizes collaborative conferences and seminars and interactions with the academia on core areas of India's interest in the geopolitics and geoeconomics, trade, finance, development, neighbourhood connectivity and South-South Cooperation in partnership with its wide network of think tanks and institutional and academic partners. These interactions provide the Ministry critical policy making inputs on emerging knowledge domains and technologies and also serve as important platforms for the articulation, discussion and dissemination of India's foreign policy and views among national and global audiences. Senior officials of the MEA also participate in them and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India. RIS also conducts rigorous studies on issues connected with regional trade and economic integration and brings out its reports which are also utilized by the Government for effective policy

articulation on critical issues. Based on inputs received from various think tanks, including RIS, the Government structures its short, medium and long-term policies for its neighbouring countries. RIS also helps the government by bringing regional and countries experts who regularly contribute to its research programme and also take part in policy dialogues for a better understanding by the government of ground realities on such matters in the neighbouring countries.

5.51 In consultation with the Government, RIS also holds track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues to promote India's foreign policy objectives. Under its University Connect Programme, RIS organizes national level seminars in collaboration with universities and academic institutions in different locations across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues. With the support of MEA, RIS is currently organizing a large number of seminars on a countrywide basis to generate awareness about the importance of India's G20 Presidency. In addition, RIS also conducts IBSA Fellowship Programme with support of MER Division, organizes five ITEC courses annually with support of DPA-II, organizes an annual international conference on South-South Cooperation with the support of MER Division, and Delhi Dialogue with ASEAN with the support of ASEAN-ML Division. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.

5.52 When asked to furnish a detailed note on research institutions, bodies and organizations working in collaboration with RIS in various countries, the Ministry has stated that over the years, RIS has developed a wide network of partner institutions across the world as part of its work programme to gain from their valuable experience, expertise and new knowledge in dealing with its areas of domain knowledge for a holistic and multi-dimensional examination and understanding of the critical issues

involved. It also enables RIS to succinctly put across India's policy postures at the global level through their networks of scholars. Many of them have entered into formal MOUs with RIS to promote policy research on mutually agreed areas of cooperation, exchange of scholars and publications, and participation in events organized by them. This process has significantly boosted the convening power and footprint of RIS across the world and a large number of its institutional partners have entered into agreements to carry out joint studies and programmes on issues of profound importance to developing countries.

5.53 The Committee understand that Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a think tank specializing in international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS conducts in-depth research on multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters. It brings out evidence based policy research studies, policy briefs and research papers on emerging issues and organize a wide range of events within the country and abroad under the overall guidance and support of the Ministry of External Affairs. In the FY 2022-23 , an outlay of Rs. 14.59 crore was earmarked for RIS and under BE 2023-24 the allocation is Rs. 16.64 crore which is a substantial increase of 14.05% from last year's budget. The enhanced allocation, as the Committee understand is on account of some special tasks RIS is going to undertake during India's Presidency of G20. Accordingly, RIS is expected to focus on India's development cooperation with Global South and Triangular Cooperation and utilize its network of national and global partner institutions to ensure that the priorities set by India during its G20 Presidency are carried forward beyond the Indian Presidency. The Committee are happy to see that RIS has been ensuring optimum utilization of funds during FY 2019-20,

2020-21 and 2022-23. In view of their track record of utilization of funds and also of their network of partner institutions across the world, the Committee hope that India's core interests are upheld during its G20 Presidency by RIS. Since the Government of India seeks advise from RIS on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues from time to time, the Committee desire that the specialized research programme of RIS should be strengthened further and integrated within the Government system. They also desire RIS to widen its outreach to vigorously promote India's narrative on areas of critical importance to the country in the evolving world where counter narratives need to be handled effectively through evidence-based research.

(Recommendation No. 56)

CHAPTER VI

POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Ministry has stated that the Policy Planning and Research (PP&R) Division is the nodal division in the Ministry for policy planning and public diplomacy initiatives with the strategic and academic community. It also conducts bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues. The Division along with its network of autonomous bodies (Indian Council of World Affairs and Research and Information Systems), think tanks and academic collaborations provide a well-organised mechanism for the purpose of Policy Planning and Research in foreign affairs. As the nodal Division of the Ministry, the PP&R Division undertakes a continuous analysis of our principal foreign policy objectives, as well as provides research-based perspectives to the Ministry on various regional and global developments.

6.2 It performs the following functions:

(1) Interface with the strategic community by organizing collaborative conferences and seminars with various think tanks, as well as supporting and facilitating India's participation in major international conferences. The Raisina Dialogue, the Global Technology Summit, the Asian Economic Dialogue and the Indian Ocean Conference are some of the flagship conferences organised by the Division, in partnership with prominent think-tanks. In addition to these, the Division also organizes national level seminars in collaboration with universities and academic institutions in different locations in the country to aid in the dissemination of foreign policy awareness. Recently, the Division has also taken the initiative to expand its footprint beyond New Delhi by initiatives such as NADI Dialogue in Guwahati, "Act East to Indo-Pacific. Role of North Eastern States in Connecting the Connectivities" was organized in Imphal, Manipur, organizing

the first ever Raisina Forum for future of diplomacy in New Delhi and Varanasi, etc.

(2) Conduct of bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices and organize Track 1.5 dialogues with our important diplomatic partners.

(3) Prepare research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular. The Division also prepares the Daily Report, Global Conflict Monitor, Think Tank Compendium, Foreign Policy Crux, and other reports. These reports are disseminated within the Ministry and the Government.

(4) The Division is also mandated to prepare and publish the Annual Report of the Ministry which is tabled in Parliament. This is an intensive, three-month-long process during which this Division collates and synthesizes inputs from all our Divisions; and, presents a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's activities on an annual basis.

6.3 While there is no single overarching and formalized strategic document that can delineate a roadmap for India's foreign policy apparatus, the underlying principles of our diplomatic strategy are long-established and enduring. The Ministry continually assesses and refines its diplomatic stance and policies in response to evolving global challenges. India's positions on relevant issues and its interests, in the context of these principles, have been articulated through various platforms.

6.4 These include safeguarding India's sovereignty and security, protecting and promoting India's national interests, enabling India's domestic economic transformation, ensuring peaceful, secure and stable regional and global environment that is conducive to India's growth and development and

building influence in global forums through bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts. This pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy orientation has revitalized our traditional ties, re-energized our strategic, commercial, and economic relations with new partners and re-connected us with our Diaspora abroad. It has provided us with a foundation for dealing with the new and fast-changing realities of the world.

6.5 While elucidating the manner in which external expertise is being inducted into the Ministry, it has been submitted that to conduct research and develop policies, the Ministry of External Affairs has been using subject-matter experts as consultants. Research papers, policy briefs, coverage of strategic conferences and seminars, template speeches, think-tank compendiums, and daily analysis of important international events are all produced by these consultants. Other Ministry Divisions, outside the PP&R Division, are also using consultants' services. These consultants are now employed for a period of two years, with the possibility of an extension. A long-term policy for employing these consultants' knowledge would be developed based on the Ministry's experience using their services.

6.6 It is further added that the Ministry accords high priority to engaging academics based in universities and think tanks and utilizing their expertise in the preparation of research papers and policy briefs for use in the Ministry. There are multiple mechanisms for engaging with academics. For example, the division funds universities for the conduct of national/international seminars and thematic conferences on a regular basis. The Ministry also engages with academia through its autonomous bodies – ICWA and RIS – which have a systematic programme of academic events as well as collaborations with corresponding institutions in other countries. The research output of the academic activities is compiled into reports and compendiums which are utilised by the Ministry. Another channel through which the Ministry utilizes academic expertise is by commissioning of

research projects through think tanks like ICWA, RIS, IDSA etc. Apart from these formal channels, the officers of the Ministry maintain close links with academics and researchers working on areas of interest to the Ministry and frequently interact with them in order to exchange views and gain insights from them. The Ministry supports various Track 1.5 Dialogues, in partnership with prominent think tanks, enabling the participation of domain expertise on key foreign policy issues. The Ministry has also intensified institutional engagement with academic experts by facilitating regular interaction of high functionaries with academics. The Ministry has also been utilizing external expertise in the form of subject specialist consultants for the purpose of research and policy planning. These consultants are used for producing research papers, policy briefs, coverage of strategic conferences and seminars, preparation of template speeches, think-tank compendium, as well as daily analysis of significant global events.

6.7 While tendering evidence before the Committee on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary elaborated on the role and functioning of the Policy Planning Division as under:

“Basically, policy planning is not a monolith in its substance. I cannot make policy in abstract. I need inputs. So, what we do, we get inputs from a range of actors. So, first, we get a set of inputs from all our Territorial Divisions. If I am framing a policy on Sri Lanka, for example, the Head of the Territorial Division is the first point who has to coordinate with my Mission abroad to frame certain policy prescriptions. Then, my Policy Planning Division interacts, interfaces, collects, collates information and the prescription that the think tank community may have at the second place. Third, we rely on publicly available academic literature relating to that policy which we can do. Fourth, we take into account any specific projects that will be run. We run several research-based projects with various think tanks. We run it with RIS; we run it with ICWA; and sometimes, we run it with Gateway House. We run it with other think tanks. All these come together in the policy planning. Then, what does the Policy Planning Division do? It creates all these three things. It creates policy products and policy recommendation.

Policy products are very specific products. These are products which are ready for use. It is not just for my Ministry. It is not just for me. It is available, for example, to the hon. Committee Members also. If the hon. Committee Members say, Department of Policy Planning, MEA, please give us a policy note, policy product on India's relationship with a country, say, 'Africa', then, the Policy Planning Division can come, brief the hon. Members of the Committee and give you a note within 24 hours, and no longer than that. That is the specific policy product. Then, it makes a recommendation. For example, we have a particular crucial decision to make in terms of decisions. The Policy Planning Division will make that decision. But there is a gap area. I would very much submit that it could be hon. Committee's recommendation to us. Gap area is our direct interaction with the universities. So, we have recently increased the allocation for this. So, what we have done is, we have mapped roughly 75-100 universities all over India. We are now trying to involve the talent and intellect in those universities with how we, in the Policy Planning Division, can encourage their work.

Policy Planning is also our core for interaction with the think tanks. But this is an area which in my personal view, I would say even in my official view as Foreign Secretary, is something which can grow phenomenally from where we are to easily.....This is something on which we are heavily focused on. It comes directly under the Foreign Secretary.

We have recently increased the strength of Policy Planning Division enormously. Policy Planning Division is also our window for interaction with the Policy Planning Division of the other countries. So, we have roughly about 20 odd policy planning dialogues with other countries. For us, the policy planning is very crucial to our existence.....we are very heavily focused on this. We are trying to make it one of the strongest value proposition of the Ministry of External Affairs, not just for our work but also for the work of bodies like this Committee, thinktanks, universities, etc. It is a bit of a window for janbhagidaari outside. They are the ones who link us up to the rest of India".

6.8 The Ministry has provided examples of some of the research institutes/think tanks/universities that it collaborates with from time to time, through the Policy Planning Division as given below:-

Name of Research Institutes	Remarks
ICWA	<p>ICWA was established in 1943 as a think tank and was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Council has been declared an institution of national importance. The Hon'ble Vice President of India is ICWA's ex-officio President. ICWA is administered as per the provisions of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001. The budget for ICWA is provided by the PP&R Division, MEA.</p>
RIS	<p>The RIS was established in 1983 as a registered society. The Society was envisaged to serve as a national focal point to identify and discuss priority areas of research concerning multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters. It was decided that the society will undertake research activities or may assign areas of research to specified national institutions. The society will also forge effective links between research institutions of other Nonaligned and developing countries. It would also organize discussions, seminars and workshops and involve research institutions of other countries in these undertakings. It would also advise the Government of India on all</p>

	matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues as may be referred to from time to time.
MP-IDSA	The Manohar Parikar Institute for Defence and Strategic Analysis is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence. PP&R Division collaborates with IDSA for carrying out various conferences and thematic projects.
Delhi Policy Group	The Ministry collaborates with Delhi Policy Group for the organisation of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue
Asian Confluence	The Ministry collaborates with Asian Confluence for organising NADI Dialogue in the North East. Recently, the Ministry organized a dialogue on Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian States in Connecting the Connectivities” in Imphal, Manipur with Asian Confluence.
Institute of Chinese Studies	The Division has provided grant in aid for the functioning of this institute.
Observer Research Foundation	The Division collaborates with ORF for the organisation of the Raisina Dialogue. So far seven editions of the Raisina Dialogue have been successfully organised till 2022. Raisina Dialogue is the Ministry’s flagship conference relating to international strategic affairs and geo politics. In the past, ORF has also collaborated with the Ministry for activities connected to BRICS. ORF has also organized

	the Raisina Forum for Future of Diplomacy for young diplomats from over 30 countries in 2022.
India Foundation	The Division collaborates with India Foundation for the organisation of the Indian Ocean Conference. So far five editions of the Indian Ocean Conference have been held since 2016.
Ananta Aspen Centre	The Division collaborates with Ananta Centre for the organising of the India US Forum and the India Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue.
Carnegie India	The Division collaborates with Carnegie India for organising the Global Technology Summit. 6 editions of the Global Technology Summit have been held so far.
Pune International Centre	The Ministry collaborates with PIC for various foreign policy related outreach conferences, including organisation of Asia Economic Dialogue.
Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies	The Ministry provides grants in aid to this institute for funding its academic activities.
China Centre for Analysis and Strategy	The Ministry provides grants in aid to this institute for funding its academic activities.
Manipur University, Rashtriya Raksha University	The division collaborates with universities to organize seminars, events, etc.

Others	The division has collaborated with several Universities and Organizations in India for numerous foreign policy outreach conferences
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6.9 Ministry undertakes research collaborations with other countries through ICWA and RIS. ICWA maintains a regular programme of interactions and academic collaborations with its partner institutions in several countries. Similarly, the RIS has a comprehensive programme of research collaboration with international organisations and academic bodies of other countries. The ASEAN-India Centre located within the RIS is specifically mandated for research collaboration on issues of mutual interest for India and ASEAN countries. The outcome of such collaboration is usually in the form of academic research which is published in various index academic journals.

6.10 Regarding the extent to which the outcome of research collaborations with ICWA and RIS has been utilized/absorbed in India's foreign policy making/goals, the Ministry has stated that research undertaken by ICWA and RIS is duly shared with the Ministry, and also incorporated into a Think Tank Compendium by the Policy Planning Division for wider internal circulation among policy makers. These important inputs are also appropriately utilized by the Division in its bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices, preparation of research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular and in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Ministry.

6.11 In addition, both ICWA and RIS organize several international conferences and seminars with international partners. These events have resulted in knowledge-sharing and better understanding of Global trends.

6.12 These interactions also provide the Ministry critical policy making inputs on emerging knowledge domains and technologies and also serve as important platforms for the articulation, discussion and dissemination of India's foreign policy and views among national and global audiences. Senior officials of the MEA also participate in them and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

6.13 Responding to the concerns raised by the Committee on the need for outreach to universities for research along with appropriate funding for the same and creation of more think tanks in the country during the course of evidence on 21 February 2023, the Foreign Secretary stated as under:

"We also deeply appreciate the point that you have made about the need for outreach to all the universities all over India; the need to do outreach to think tanks; and the need to build think tanks where there are no think-tanks. There are many parts of the country where there is not enough constituency for a think tank to be developed. So, build think-tanks there in all parts of India, and use them for our inputs. I think, this is something which is, especially linking with the legal fraternity outside Delhi or the major Capitals. This is a major need that we have of the legal expertise which feeds into our work. You have also mentioned about skilling. The last point that you made- was how to empower our own institutions, including the Parliamentary institutions to push for our foreign policy objectives vis-à-vis other countries. Parliamentary delegation is one thing. But, as you have rightly observed, the distinguished Members of Parliament can raise the questions with an offending Government if they do something. So, we take all these suggestions on-board. It would indeed be good of us to receive these recommendations as part of Committee's observations. We, from our side, will try and present to the Committee a proper plan with resource allocation: Firstly, for the outreach to the universities, especially the legal faculties of the universities, and secondly, proposals with education for the research think tanks (pure play research and also the applied research).

I would like to say one more thing for the information of the Committee. We have already started outreach to the universities. I would say that our first specific outreach with funds started about six months ago. We will build on this and scale it up exponentially in this case....."

6.14 When the Committee observed that the Raisina Dialogue is the Ministry's flagship conference relating to international strategic affairs and geopolitics and desired to know the status and the extent to which the Raisina Dialogue has contributed towards the shaping of India's foreign policy, the Ministry has informed that since its inception in 2016, seven editions of Raisina Dialogue have been held, and the 8th edition of Raisina Dialogue is scheduled to be held from March 02-04, 2023. Policy Planning Division works with ORF closely to expand the scale and scope of the Conference each year. The interest in Raisina Dialogue from global leaders is increasing, and this is reflected in the increase in high level foreign participation year on year. High level officials participating in Raisina Dialogue also engage in bilateral conversations with Indian counterparts and officials, which helps strengthen Indian diplomatic outreach.

6.15 The conference is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving a variety of global policymakers including heads of states, cabinet ministers and local government officials. In addition, the Dialogue also welcomes major private sector executives, as well as members of the media and academia. This makes Raisina Dialogue an appropriate forum for debate, dialogue, and sharing of ideas between the domestic strategic community and international participants.

6.16 Each year, The Raisina Dialogue publishes a series of publications in order to ensure a continual dialogue of conference themes and highlights. This is also shared with the Ministry for deliberation and utilization in further policy formulation.

6.17 The Committee also sought the details of consultation and coordination regarding international relations with other arms of the Government held during FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 and the outcome, they have been informed that the Ministry regularly consults with other Ministries,

Departments, and Institutions of the Indian Government about issues related to foreign policy. The Departmental Standing Committee and the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoSs) are two more significant bodies that occasionally offer their insightful opinions on foreign policy issues. The Ministry also engages in cross-cutting discussions on foreign policy with other Ministries, Departments, and Institutions through the framework of Inter-Ministerial Meetings and in the preparation of problems highlighted by the Parliamentary Standing Committees. On a regular basis, various Departments within the Ministry communicate with other Ministries, Departments, and Institutions of the Central and State Governments regarding issues relating to India's foreign relations. The discussions during meetings of multilateral/plurilateral groupings (UN, G20, BRICS, G7, IBSA, SCO, etc.) center on important global concerns including the economy and trade, the environment, energy, digitization, counterterrorism, anti-corruption, education, labor, health, etc., which are multidisciplinary topics involving various Ministries/Departments of the Indian Government. In order to develop a cohesive and consolidated posture for India, frequent coordination is maintained with all stakeholders. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is the principal Ministry in charge of the Government's international policy. A process for consulting with all other relevant Ministries, Departments, and Institutions exists. Institutionally connected and collaborating with one another is MEA, Missions, and ICCR.

6.18 The Committee note that the Policy Planning and Research (PP&R) Division of MEA collaborates with its network of autonomous bodies like ICWA and RIS; think tanks and academic institutions for the purpose of policy planning and research in foreign affairs and for creating policy products and policy recommendations. Policy formulation, whether it is foreign policy or

domestic, economic or social policy, depends on research inputs from a range of actors. The Committee, however, find that not much stress has been laid on research in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the MEA should take the lead in developing research culture through its PP&R Division, create more think tanks and directly interact with universities in the country. The current interaction and collaboration with think tanks and universities should also be scaled up exponentially with proper assessment of funding requirement for research and provisioning of adequate Budgetary Allocation for the same.

(Recommendation No. 57)

6.19 The Committee desire that the Ministry should submit to them a list of think-tanks across India, along with a programme of engagement to be undertaken with them. Focus areas may also include efforts to identify and nurture emerging think-tanks in North Eastern India with the aim of improving implementation of Government of India's Act East Policy. Outreach may also be made to institutions that specialize in international legal issues. The steps taken and progress made in this regard may be communicated to the Committee within three months.

(Recommendation No. 58)

6.20 The Committee desire that the Ministry should maintain closer interaction and more collaboration with the Policy Planning Divisions of other countries, particularly developed countries and continuous efforts for absorption of the outcome of such collaborations in India's foreign policy making/goals, may be made. As the PP&R Division is also our window for interaction with the Policy Planning

Divisions of other countries, it should be reinforced with sufficient manpower and adequate resources.

(Recommendation No. 59)

6.21 The Committee lay great emphasis on the role of research inputs on foreign policy as well as on economic, social, scientific and technological issues, etc. The Committee understand that apart from ICWA and RIS, the Ministry is collaborating with research institutes, think tanks and has also started outreach to universities through its Policy Planning Division. In the opinion of the Committee, research in the field of funding requirement, allocation and spending is one area the MEA needs to work upon. The global trends in this regard would enable the Ministry to make a realistic assessment of our present needs and what we lacked. The Committee are also of the view that universities possessing the academic expertise and talent are most suited to carry out research in this field and desire that the Ministry should move towards direct interaction with universities and provide appropriate funding for research. For this purpose, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should open/create a new Budget Head for research funding to universities in the country.

(Recommendation No.60)

6.22 The Committee also desire that the MEA should prepare a programme of engagement with universities across the country including through *jan bhagidari*. The objective of such an engagement should be twofold: one to broad base the making of the Indian foreign policy; and two, to disseminate Indian foreign policy narratives and priorities into the academia. The progress made in

this regard may be communicated to the Committee within three months.

(Recommendation No. 61)

6.23 The Committee observe that under the Ministry's Flagship Conference, the Raisina Dialogue, there has been increase in high level foreign participation year on year. Besides the participation of global policy makers including heads of States, Cabinet Ministers and local Government officials, the Dialogue also welcomes major private sector executives as well as members of the media and academia. The Committee feel that the Raisina Dialogue is an appropriate forum for debate, dialogue and sharing of ideas between the domestic strategic community and international participants and desire that the scale and scope of the Conference should be expanded. The outcome of conferences and dialogues held and publications brought out may be utilized by the Ministry in further policy formulation.

(Recommendation No. 62)

6.24 The Committee note that various Departments within the MEA communicate with other Ministries, Departments and Institutions of the Central and State Governments regarding issues relating to India's foreign relations. The Committee feel that being the principal Ministry in charge of India's Foreign policy, the Ministry should establish an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination with all other relevant Ministries, Departments and

Institutions and strengthen the mechanism of Inter-Ministerial Meetings for effective management of our foreign affairs.

(Recommendation No. 63)

NEW DELHI
16 March, 2023
25 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

P.P. CHAUDHARY
Chairperson,
Committee on External Affairs

APPENDIX-I

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23) HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY, 2023

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 21 February, 2023 from 1130 hrs. to 1315 hrs and from 1415 hrs to 1545 hrs. in Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Preneet Kaur
3. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
4. Shri P.C.Mohan
5. Smt. Queen Oja
6. Dr. K.C Patel
7. Shri Rebati Tripura
8. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

RAJYA SABHA

9. Shri Anil Desai
10. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
11. Shri Prakash Javadekar

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | Director |
| 3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut | Deputy Secretary |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Harsh Vinay Kwatra	Foreign Secretary
2.	Ms. Kumar Tuhin	DG (ICCR)
3.	Shri Prabha Kumar	Special Secretary (ER & DPA)
4.	Shri Vibhu Naya	Additional Secretary (FA)
5.	Shri Sanjiv Ranjan	Additional Secretary (Admin)
6.	Shri Manika Jain	Additional Secretary (OIA-II)
7.	Shri Rudrendra Tandon	Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC&SAARC)
8.	Ms. Abhilasha Joshi	Additional Secretary (DPA-II &IV)
9.	Shri Anurag Bhushan	Additional Secretary (OIA-I)
10.	Shri Puneet Agrarwal	Joint Secretary (IOR)
11.	Shri T. Armstrong Changsan	Joint Secretary (PSP &CPO)
12.	Shri B. Vanlalvawna	Joint Secretary (Admin)
13.	Shri Anurag Srivastava	Joint Secretary (North)
14.	Shri Anil Kumar Rai	Joint Secretary (Parl & Coord)
15.	Shri D.C. Manjunath	JS (GEM & Estt.)
16.	Shri Satish Sivan	JS (DPA-III)
17.	Shri Bramha Kumar	JS (OE & PGE)
18.	Dr. Satyanjal Pandey	Director (Finance)
19.	Smt. Paulomi Tripathi	Director (BM)
20.	Shri Rohit Mishra	Director (FSO)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to the sitting of the Committee

convened to take evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2023-24. He also drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry to Direction 55 (1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson delved upon the overall budgetary allocations made to the Ministry of External Affairs during BE 2023-24 as well as RE 2022-23. While acknowledging the fact that the BE allocation is the second highest in the last few years, the Chairperson desired to know how the declared foreign policy ambitions could be achieved with such limited budgetary allocation. The Chairperson also sought to know *inter-alia* on the following issues *viz.* reasons for allocation of lesser funds to the Ministry *vis -a- vis* the Budgetary demands, the steps proposed to be taken to deliver on the various projects and commitments and likely increase in activities in the post-COVID times, with lesser allocations than required and projected funds, the unspent balance of funds surrendered during the last three years period, the manner in which the Ministry would mobilize the required funds for the various programmes/activities of G20 scheduled to take place this year, etc.

3. Thereafter, the Foreign Secretary presented a broad overview of the Ministry's budget, milestones achieved in the ongoing fiscal year, the challenges faced in project implementation abroad, the broad heads of different budgetary expenditure and how the Ministry have positioned them over the years. The Members raised questions on various issues related to the mandate of the Ministry which *inter-alia* included effect of reduced allocation to projects in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, reasons for reduction in revenue from visa fee in 2021-2022, issues pertaining to South Asian University, under staffing in Embassies, effect of slow pace of expenditure in the first and third quarters for 2020-21, 2022-23 at RE stage and initiatives being contemplated by the Ministry to ensure a smooth and balanced expenditure during each quarter of a financial year, report of comparative global study by RIS, details of project specific initiatives and the reasons for delay in implementation of such initiatives, need for outreach to universities for research along with appropriate funding for the same, creation of more think tanks, etc.

4. Responding to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee, the Foreign Secretary gave detailed replies. Before the sitting concluded the Chairperson directed that the Ministry should furnish written replies on the various points raised by the Members during discussion to the Secretariat at the earliest.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the Proceedings has been kept.

APPENDIX-II

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23) HELD ON 16 MARCH, 2023

The Committee sat on Thursday, 16 March, 2023 from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Committee Room No. '3', Extension Building, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Dileswar Kamait
3. Smt. Preneet Kaur
4. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
5. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
6. Dr. K. C. Patel
7. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
8. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Rajya Sabha

9. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
10. Shri Anil Desai
11. Shri Abdul Wahab
12. Shri Prakash Javadekar
13. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | - | Director |
| 3. | Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2023-24.
4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The Members suggested some minor modifications. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Report with these minor modifications.
5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE-A

Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2019-20

Sl. No.	Training Programme	Dates
1.	Promotion Related Training for JSAs, SSAs and Stenos	08 -12 Apr 2019
2.	Training Programme for Commercial Representatives posted in Africa and America region	8-12 Apr 2019
3.	Training Programme for Directors of Indian Cultural Centres	1-2 May 2019
4.	Promotion Related Training for SOs and PSs	27 May- 10 Jun 2019
5.	Training module for Defence Attaches	10-14 Jun 2019
6.	Accounts Module	14- 17 Jun 2019
7.	Promotion Related Training for MTS and Staff Car Drivers	17- 21 Jun 2019
8.	73 rd IMAS	18 Jun- 15 Jul 2019
9.	Typing test	04 Jul 2019
10.	Workshop on online RTI	9 Jul 2019
11.	73 rd IMAS Retest	23 Jul 2019
12.	IVFRT	29 Jul- 02 Aug 2019
13.	Accounts Module	19- 20 Aug 2019
14.	74 th IMAS	21 Aug - 25 Sep 2019
15.	Mid Career Training Programme-I for Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary level IFS Officers	16-24 Sep 2019
16.	Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat 'A' level officers	25-26 Sep 2019
17.	Mid Career Training Programme-II for Director level IFS officers	30 Sep-4 Oct 2019
18.	74 th IMAS Retest	03 Oct 2019
19.	Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media	16-22 Oct 2019
20.	Typing Test for ASOs	18 Oct 2019
21.	Mid Career Training Programme-III for Joint Secretary level IFS Officers	29 Oct-1 Nov 2019
22.	IVFRT	05- 11 Nov 2019

23.	Training Programme for Performing Art Teachers at Indian Cultural Centres	18-22 Nov 2019
24.	Accounts Module	28-29 Nov 2019
25.	75 st IMAS	02-30 Dec 2019
26.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2019 Batch	09 Dec 2019– 24 Jul 2020
27.	Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat officers	23-24 Dec 2019
28.	75th IMAS Retest	14 Jan 2020
29.	Typing Test for ASOs	16 Jan 2020
30.	Workshop on Technical Risk Assessment of Dual-Use Exports (TRADE) by US Dept of Energy	5-7 Feb 2020
31.	IVFRT	12-18 Feb 2020
32.	Induction Training Programme for DR ASOs	17-28 Feb 2020
33.	Promotion related Training Programme for SOs and PSs	16 Mar- 27 Mar 2020 (Virtual from 23-27 March)

Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2020-21

Sl. No.	Training Programme	Dates
1.	Promotion Related Training for JSAs, SSAs and Stenos	08 - 12 Apr 2020
2.	Special Course for Interpreters Cadre	06-17 Apr 2020
3.	76th IMAS	10 - 12 Jun 2020
4.	IVFRT	13 Jun 2020
5.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs and PAs	31 Aug - 04 Sep 2020
6.	Stenography test for PAs/Stenographers	09 Sep 2020
7.	IVFRT	14 - 15 Sep 2020
8.	Typing Test for ASOs	25 Sep 2020
9.	Promotion related Training Programme for SSAs, JSAs and Stenographers	28 Sep - 05 Oct 2020

10.	Supplementary MCTP-III	05 - 09 Oct 2020
11.	77th IMAS	12 - 16 Oct 2020
12.	Training Module on Social Media for HOM/HOPs	12 - 16 Oct 2020
13.	MCTP-I	23 Nov - 04 Dec 2020
14.	IVFRT	24 - 25 Nov 2020
15.	78th IMAS	14 - 18 Dec 2020
16.	Induction Training Programme for IFS OTs of 2020 Batch	21 Dec 2020 - 11 Jun 2021
17.	1st Special Training Programme for officers of States & Union Territories on Economic & Commercial Diplomacy	04 - 08 Jan 2021
18.	Typing Test for ASOs	13 Jan 2021
19.	IVFRT	20 - 22 Jan 2021
20.	Stenography test	03 Feb 2021
21.	2nd Special Training Programme for officers of States & Union Territories on Economic & Commercial Diplomacy	08 - 12 Feb 2021
22.	Accounts Training Programme	18 - 19 Feb 2021
23.	79th IMAS Training Programme	22 Feb - 05 Mar 2021
24.	IVFRT e-FRRO module on PAP/RAP	18 Mar 2021
25.	Promotion related Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers and Personal Assistants	22 - 26 Mar 2021

Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2021-22

Sl. No.	Training Programme	Dates
1.	Promotion related Training Programme for Principal Private Secretaries	05-09 Apr 2021
2.	6th Mid Career Training Programme Phase-I (MCTP-I)	05-16 Jul 2021
3.	Promotion related Training Programme for Private Secretaries	12-16 Jul 2021
4.	Promotion related Training Programme for Section Officers	12-23 Jul 2021
5.	Special Training Programme for Officers of Haryana State	23 Jul 2021
6.	Training Programme for the Officers of International Relations	02-03 Aug 2021

	Division, Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India	
7.	IVFRT	02-03 Aug 2021
8.	Accounts Training Programme	05-06 Aug 2021
9.	80 th IMAS	09-23 Aug 2021
10.	Probation Related Training Programme for Officers at the Level of Under Secretaries	31 Aug – 24 Sep 2021
11.	Accounts Training Programme	06-08 Sep 2021
12.	81 st IMAS	13-24 Sep 2021
13.	Training Programme for Defence Attachés	27 Sep – 01 Oct 2021
14.	Online Mid-Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for IFS officers	04-14 Oct 2021
15.	1st Induction Training Programme for Personal Assistants and Stenographers	22 Nov -03 Dec 2021
16.	Induction Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2017 and 2018 batches	13-24 Dec 2021
17.	Training Programme for Officers Posted to Overseas Audit Officers	06-07 Jan 2022
18.	IVFRT	10-11 Jan 2022
19.	Accounts Training Programme	13-14 Jan 2022
20.	82 nd IMAS	17-21 Jan 2022
21.	Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the Second Batch of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2017 and 2018 batches	31 Jan -11 Feb 2022
22.	AKAM Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media	21-25 Feb 2022
23.	1st Training module on 'India and its Neighbourhood' as part of 96th Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie	09-11 Mar 2022
24.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2021 batch	21 Mar – 09 Sep 2022

ANNEXURE-B**Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2019-20**

Sl. No.	Training Courses	Duration
1.	1 st Special Course for Moroccan Diplomats	15-27 Apr 2019
2.	1 st Special Course for Senegalese Diplomats	15-27 Apr 2019
3.	1 st Special Course for Angolan Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
4.	1 st Special Course for Botswana Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
5.	1 st Special Course for Liberian Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
6.	1 st Special Course for Sao Tome & Principe Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
7.	1 st Special Course for Equatorial Guinea Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
8.	1 st Special Course for Egyptian Diplomats	10-22 Jun 2019
9.	1 st Special Course for Central Asian Diplomats	24 Jun-6 Jul 2019
10.	2 nd Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats	24 Jun-6 Jul 2019
11.	1 st Special Course for League of Arab States	22-28 Jul 2019
12.	2 nd Special Training Prog. for CARICOM Diplomats	12-23 Aug 2019
13.	3 rd Familiarisation Programme for Resident HoMs	19-23 Aug 2019
14.	3 rd Special Course for Iraqi Diplomats	26 Aug-7 Sept 2019
15.	2 nd Special Course for Palestinian Diplomats	2-14 Sept 2019
16.	1 st Special Course for Libyan Diplomats	6-21 Sept 2019
17.	68 th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats	16 Sep-11 Oct 2019
18.	5 th Special Course for ASEM Diplomats	14-21 Oct 2019
19.	13 th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats	14-26 Oct 2019
20.	1 st Special Course for Mongolian Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
21.	3 rd Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
22.	1 st Special Course for Dominican Republic Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
23.	2 nd India-China Joint Capacity Building Programme for Afghan Diplomats	11-23 Nov 2019
24.	1 st Special Course for Beninese Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
25.	1 st Special Course for Cameroonian Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
26.	1 st Special Course for Democratic Republic of Congo Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
27.	1 st Special Course for Gabonese Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
28.	1 st Special Course for Cote d'Ivoire Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
29.	1 st Special Course for Kenyan Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
30.	1 st Special Course for Namibian & Malawian Diplomats	1-13 Dec 2019
31.	4 th Special Course for Bangladeshi Diplomats	9-22 Dec 2019
32.	2 nd Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs	13-31 Jan 2020

	Fellowship Programme	
33.	1 st Special Course for BIMSTEC Diplomats	03-15 Feb 2020
34.	3 rd Special Course for Syrian Diplomats	24 Feb–07 Mar 2020
35.	4 th Special Course for Iraqi Diplomats	24 Feb–07 Mar 2020

Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2020-21

Sl. No.	Training Courses	Duration
1.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Suriname	14-25 Sep 2020
2.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures on Introduction to India 2020 in association with India Foundation	15-16 Oct 2020
3.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures on Introduction to India 2020 Part-II	19-20 Nov 2020
4.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Suriname on Commercial and Economic Diplomacy	07-18 Dec 2020
5.	1st Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	18-22 Jan 2021
6.	2nd Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	22-26 Feb 2021
7.	3rd Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	22-26 Mar 2021

Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2021-22

Sl. No.	Training Courses	Duration
1.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Vietnam	11-12 May 2021
2.	Special Training Module on 'Reformed Multilateralism' for Diplomats from Dominican Republic	16 Jun 2021
3.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Sierra Leone	21 Jun – 02 Jul 2021
4.	8th Special Course for Diplomats from Afghanistan	05-17 Jul 2021
5.	4th Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	26-30 Jul 2021
6.	4th Familiarization Programme for Resident HoMs	23-27 Aug 2021
7.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)	20 Sep – 01 Oct 2021
8.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures 2021 on Introduction to India for Resident Foreign Diplomats	21-22 Oct 2021
9.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from The Gambia	15-26 Nov 2021
10.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Oman	06-17 Dec 2021

ANNEXURE-I

Details of 51 lok sabha constituencies where post office passport seva kendras (popsk) has to be opened

S.No.	State	POPSK Locations	Passport Office	Lok Sabha Constituency
1	Andhra Pradesh	Araku (Alternate location - Parvathipuram)	Vishakhapatnam	Araku
2	Bihar	Jhanjharpur	Patna	Jhanjharpur
3	Bihar	Ram Nagar	Patna	Valmiki Nagar
4	Bihar	Bakhera	Patna	Vaishali
5	Chattisgarh	Bastar	Raipur	Bastar
6	Chattisgarh	Kanker	Raipur	Kanker
7	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Raipur	Mahasamund
8	Kerala	Ponnani	Kozhikode	Ponnani
9	Kerala	Wayanad	Kozhikode	Wayanad
10	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	Bhopal	Guna
11	Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi	Bhopal	Sidhi
12	Madhya Pradesh	Pipilia Mandi	Bhopal	Mandsour
13	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind	Bhopal	Bhind
14	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Bhopal	Khandwa
15	Madhya Pradesh	Khargone (Barwani)	Bhopal	Khargone (Barwani)
16	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla (Dindori)	Bhopal	Mandla (Dindori)
17	Madhya Pradesh	Morena	Bhopal	Morena
18	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Bhopal	Rajgarh
19	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	Bhopal	Shahdol

20	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Mumbai	Nandurbar
21	Maharashtra	Alibaug	Mumbai	Raigad
22	Maharashtra	Dindori	Mumbai	Dindori
23	Punjab	Tarn Taran	Amritsar	Khadoor Sahib
24	Tamil Nadu	Trippur	Coimbatore	Trippur
25	Tamil Nadu	Pollachi	Coimbatore	Pollachi
26	Uttar Pradesh	Nagina	Bareilly	Nagina
27	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Lucknow	Etawah
28	Uttar Pradesh	Manjhanpur	Lucknow	Kaushambi
29	Uttar Pradesh	Barabanki	Lucknow	Barabanki
30	Uttar Pradesh	Basti	Lucknow	Basti
31	Uttar Pradesh	Churk	Lucknow	Robertsganj
32	Uttar Pradesh	Kushi Nagar	Lucknow	Kushi Nagar
33	Uttar Pradesh	Akbarpur	Lucknow	Akbarpur
34	Uttar Pradesh	Aonla	Bareilly	Aonla
35	Uttar Pradesh	Bansgoan	Lucknow	Bansgoan
36	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli	Lucknow	Chandauli
37	Uttar Pradesh	Dhauraha	Lucknow	Dhauraha
38	Uttar Pradesh	Etah	Bareilly	Etah
39	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	Bareilly	Firozabad
40	Uttar Pradesh	Jalaun	Lucknow	Jalaun
41	Uttar Pradesh	Kairana	Ghaziabad	Kairana
42	Uttar Pradesh	Kaiserganj	Lucknow	Kaiserganj
43	Uttar Pradesh	Kannauj	Lucknow	Kannauj
44	Uttar Pradesh	Lalganj	Lucknow	Lalganj
45	Uttar Pradesh	Machhlishahr	Lucknow	Machhlishahr
46	Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri	Bareilly	Mainpuri
47	Uttar Pradesh	Malihabad	Lucknow	Mohanlalganj

48	Uttar Pradesh	Phulpur	Lucknow	Phulpur
49	Uttar Pradesh	Salempur	Lucknow	Salempur
50	Uttar Pradesh	Sambhal	Bareilly	Sambhal
51	Uttar Pradesh	Sant Kabir Nagar	Lucknow	Sant Kabir Nagar

ANNEXURE-II

LIST OF ITEC TRAINING MODULES OFFERED IN CURRENT FY

S.NO	UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE [GOVT. (G)/ PVT.(P)]	COURSE NAME
1.	AMITY UNIVERSITY	BECOMING A STRATEGIC THINKER - THE ESSENTIALS OF THINKING STRATEGICALLY AND ENHANCING YOUR IMPACT
2.	CBI ACADEMY	ANTI CORRUPTION CASES INCLUDING PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT FRAUD
3.	CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY	ISO 22000/HACCP FOR FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS
4.	CENTRAL SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ORGANIZATION	POLICIES ON BIOMEDICAL DEVICES
5.	CENTRAL SERICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE	TRAINING ON SERICULTURE AND SILK INDUSTRY
6.	CENTRAL SILK TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CENTRAL SILK BOARD	TRAINING ON POST COCOON TECHNOLOGY
7.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON MACHINE LEARNING
8.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA	INDUSTRIAL, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE PROJECT PREPARATION AND APPRAISAL
9.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	INTRODUCTION TO THE TWENTY-THIRTY AGENDA - A NEW AGENDA FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD
10.	FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	OIL, WATER AND GAS FLOW MESUREMENT AND CONTROL TECHNIQUES & STANDARDS
11.	GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA TRAINING INSTITUTE	REMOTE SENSING AND DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING FOR GEOSCIENTISTS
12.	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY	NARCOTICS DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

13.	HUMAN SETTLEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE	REALIZING THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING IN THE CONTEXT OF HABITAT III NEW URBAN AGENDA - POLICIES PLANNING AND PRACTICES
14.	IIP, DEHRADUN	PETROLEUM REFINING TECHNOLOGY AND PETROCHEMICALS
15.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR VOTER EDUCATION
16.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE, CENTRE FOR WTO STUDIES	SPECIALISED TRAINING PROGRAMME ON EMERGING ISSUES IN WTO AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE
17.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	DATA ANALYTICS AND RISK MANAGEMENT
18.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES, BANGALORE	SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY
19.	INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS & AUDIT	PERFORMANCE AUDIT
20.	INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR EMERGING MARKETS
21.	INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL EDUCATION CENTRE	WORKSHOP ON INDUSTRIAL EXPERIMENTATION FOR ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS
22.	JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT	DESIGN THINKING APPROACH FOR INNOVATIVE ORGANISATIONS
23.	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY	COURSE ON USING DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING FOR ORGANIZATION GROWTH.
24.	NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS	TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AND RAILWAYS
25.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	SME FINANCING - APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES (SMEFAS)
26.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)	COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE

27.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	WOMEN AND YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT - TRAINERS/PROMOTERS PROGRAMME (WYEWSSD)
28.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPABILITIES
29.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	RECENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN REGULATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF HERBAL DRUGS AND FORMULATIONS
30.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT	PLANT HEALTH APPROACHES, PLANT BIOSECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY
31.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
32.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOLAR ENERGY	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS
33.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH BHOPAL	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND POLICY GUIDELINES.
34.	POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (PHPM) PROGRAM
35.	RASHTRIYA CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS LIMITED	CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FERTILIZER TECHNOLOGY
36.	REC INSTITUTE OF POWER MANAGEMENT & TRAINING	CERTIFICATE COURSE IN POWER DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT
37.	RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP - LEARNING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION
38.	SOUTH INDIA TEXTILE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION	TEXTILE TESTING AND QUALITY CONTROL
39.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CYBER SECURITY & MALWARE ANALYTICS , REVERSE ENGINEERING
40.	DR AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY	TRAINING PROGRAMME ON INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT THROUGH TECHNO-MANAGERIAL AND POLICY CHOICES

41.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, KOZHIKODE	LEADERSHIP FOUR POINT ZERO - MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EMERGING WORLD OF DISRUPTION
42.	ARUN JAITLEY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	PROJECT & RISK MANAGEMENT
43.	SWAMI VIVEKANANDA YOGA ANUSANDHANA SAMSTHANA	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOGA TRAINERS
44.	CENTRAL ACADEMY OF POLICE TRAINING	NARCOTICS SUBSTANCES AND ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS
45.	V.V.GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE	HEALTH SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF WORKERS
46.	ARUN JAITLEY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT SECTOR
47.	BANKERS INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	PROGRAMME ON RURAL COOPERATIVES
48.	BANKERS INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	PROGRAMME ON FINANCING INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
49.	BANKERS INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	PROGRAMME ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
50.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI	TRAINING PROGRAMME IN QUANTUM COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
51.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF E-LEARNING COURSES
52.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
53.	DR AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY	EXPLOITATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS
54.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA	ENTREPRENEURIAL MANAGEMENT
55.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA	TECHNOPRENEURSHIP- CREATING TECHNOLOGY ENABLED STARTUPS AND ECOSYSTEM

56.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
57.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
58.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
59.	HARYANA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	INCORPORATING ASPECTS OF ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY INTO URBAN AND RURAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - AN EXAMPLE FROM HARYANA
60.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON PLANNING FOR ELECTIONS
61.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
62.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE, CENTRE FOR WTO STUDIES	SPECIALISED TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SELECT WTO ISSUES AGRICULTURE, SERVICES, TRIPS AND RTAS
63.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES, BANGALORE	INTRODUCTORY COURSES ON NANOFABRICATION TECHNOLOGIES
64.	INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE	GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
65.	INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS & AUDIT	AUDIT OF E-GOVERNANCE
66.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	PROMOTION OF MICRO ENTERPRISES
67.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS
68.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)	CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE FOR EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS-INDIAN EXPERIENCE
69.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SMALL BUSINESS- TRAINERS/PROMOTERS PROGRAMME

70.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR ORGANISATION GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE -TRAINERS/PROMOTERS PROGRAMME
71.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH
72.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN HEALTH
73.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	ADVANCED ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES BASIC PRINCIPALS AND APPLICATION FOR QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS
74.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT	THE BIOSECURITY CONTINUUM AND TRADE - TOOLS FOR THE PRE-BORDER, BORDER AND POST BORDER BIOSECURITY
75.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH	ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DESIGN OF EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS USING WEB TECHNOLOGIES
76.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRAINING FOR STANDARDIZATION (BIS)	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON STANDARDIZATION & CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT
77.	PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES	SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING
78.	PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES	PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS
79.	REC INSTITUTE OF POWER MANAGEMENT & TRAINING	BEST PRACTICES IN POWER DISTRIBUTION SECTOR
80.	REC INSTITUTE OF POWER MANAGEMENT & TRAINING	CONCEPT TO COMMISSIONING OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS
81.	V.V.GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS AND PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AT THE WORKPLACE
82.	AMITY UNIVERSITY	LEADING DIGITALLY CONNECTED SUPPLY CHAINS OF THE FUTURE
83.	JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT	UNLEASHING THE LEADERSHIP DNA IN SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

84.	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY	SPECIALIZED COURSE IN IOT TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR SMART CITIES
85.	SWAMI VIVEKANANDA YOGA ANUSANDHANA SAMSTHANA	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOGA TRAINERS
86.	TIMES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ADVANCED ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS
87.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES
88.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ELECTIONS UPHOLDING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY
89.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY THE ROLE OF ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES
90.	SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY	CYBER SECURITY INVESTIGATION
91.	GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA TRAINING INSTITUTE	SHORT COURSE ON GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR GEOSCIENTISTS
92.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	PHARMACEUTICAL GMP AUDITS AND SELF-INSPECTIONS
93.	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY	TRAINING COURSE IN PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITY CARE
94.	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY	CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ADAPTING TO NEW ERA OF BLENDED TEACHING AND LEARNING
95.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRAINING FOR STANDARDIZATION (BIS)	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON COMPETENCE OF LABORATORIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
96.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY	26TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON WIND TURBINE TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS
97.	CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY	E-WASTE AND ITS VALUE ADDITIONS EMPLOYING RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY
98.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON BASIC COURSE ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

99.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF REMOTE SENSING	SHORT COURSE ON REMOTE SENSING WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING
100.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI	ENERGY SYSTEMS, SECURITY AND NET ZERO EMISSION
101.	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY	ADVANCED METHODS OF CRIME INVESTIGATION
102.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH	ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE ON STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (TVET) SYSTEMS TO MEET THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS(SDGS) OF UNITED NATIONS
103.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA	PROMOTING INNOVATIONS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH INCUBATION
104.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA	AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
105.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES, BANGALORE	INTRODUCTORY TRAINING COURSE IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT
106.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR	DATA SCIENCE FOR MANAGERIAL DECISION-MAKING
107.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	DIFFUSION OF INNOVATIONS AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY
108.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	PROMOTION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOR REALIZING SDGS
109.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)	ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROMOTION OF FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS FPOS
110.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SMALL BUSINESS- TRAINERS/PROMOTERS PROGRAMME
111.	TIMES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN NETWORKING AND SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION
112.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, PUNE	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ADVANCED COMPUTING

113.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT)	M.TECH (IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT)
114.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF HYDROLOGY)	FORTY NINTH INTERNATIONAL COURSE OF P.G. DIPLOMA IN HYDROLOGY
115.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY- ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF HYDRO AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FORMERLY ALTERNATE HYDRO ENERGY CENTRE)	M.TECH IN RENEWABLE AND HYDRO ENERGY
116.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BANK MANAGEMENT	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP FOR TOP EXECUTIVES FROM THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM
117.	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH INNOVATION AND TRAINING	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES- INTERNET OF THINGS
118.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR	STRATEGIC HRM FOR ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE
119.	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR	CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION
120.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT)	P.G. DIPLOMA (WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT)
121.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT)	P.G. DIPLOMA (IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT)
122.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT)	MTECH IN DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

123.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT)	M.TECH (WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT)
124.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY- ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF HYDRO AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FORMERLY ALTERNATE HYDRO ENERGY CENTRE)	M TECH IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF RIVERS AND LAKES
125.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE (DEPARTMENT OF HYDROLOGY)	FIFTY ONE INTERNATIONAL COURSE OF M.TECH IN HYDROLOGY
126.	INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL EDUCATION CENTRE	STATISTICAL THEORY AND APPLICATIONS
127.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY -ROORKEE (INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAMS)	DAM SAFETY AND REHABILITATION
128.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN INTERNET OF THINGS APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE
129.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON BIG DATA TECHNOLOGIES AND MACHINE LEARNING
130.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, PUNE	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN IT INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM AND SECURITY
131.	HARYANA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE
132.	HUMAN SETTLEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE	FORMAL SOLUTIONS TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS
133.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC WORKS
134.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR	ROBOTICS

135.	INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS & AUDIT	AUDITING IN IT ENVIRONMENT
136.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BANK MANAGEMENT	INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON INCLUSIVE BANKING AND FINANCE
137.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BANK MANAGEMENT	INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME IN BANKING AND FINANCE - FOCUS - CREDIT MANAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCING
138.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
139.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRAINING FOR STANDARDIZATION (BIS)	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
140.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY	WIND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WIND FARM PLANNING
141.	POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
142.	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT	FOUNDATIONAL COURSE ON ELECTORAL INTEGRITY
143.	ARUN JAITLEY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	DATA ANALYTICS USING TABLEAU & ADVANCE EXCEL
144.	CENTRAL SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ORGANIZATION	MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ANALYTICAL EQUIPMENT
145.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON REDUCING CYBER CRIME THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING
146.	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING NOIDA	SPECIALISED PROGRAMME ON INTERNETWORKING DESIGN AND LAN WAN ADMINISTRATION
147.	DR AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY	TECHNICAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR SHIFTING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY
148.	DR AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY	ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRACTITIONERS COURSE IN INDUSTRIAL UTILITIES

149.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	INTEGRATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS
150.	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
151.	FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	FLOW MEASUREMENT & CONTROL TECHNIQUES/SOFTWARE IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESS & WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
152.	IIP, DEHRADUN	ANALYSIS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND OPERATION, MAINTENANCE OF CFR ENGINE
153.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	GLOBAL STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
154.	NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS	PUBLIC POLICY & DESIGN MANAGEMENT – A RAILWAY PARADIGM
155.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL AND TRADITIONAL ENTERPRISES- TRAINERS/PROMOTERS PROGRAMME
156.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
157.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT	TRAINING PROGRAM ON MASS PRODUCTION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF BIOPESTICIDES
158.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON GEOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT
159.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH	ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN ELECTRONICS FOR TVET TRAINERS AND PLANNERS
160.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY	27TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON SOLAR RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR POWER PLANT
161.	REC INSTITUTE OF POWER MANAGEMENT & TRAINING	EMERGING TRENDS IN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
162.	AMITY UNIVERSITY	THE ART OF COMMUNICATION - UNLEASHING THE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR WITHIN YOU

163.	AMITY UNIVERSITY	LEADING CYBER SECURITY CHANGE-BUILDING A SECURITY BASED CULTURE
164.	JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT	DYNAMICS OF HIGH PERFORMING TEAM IN SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES FOR MIDDLE MANAGER
165.	JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT	DEVELOPING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE ORGANIZATION
166.	TIMES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNET OF THINGS
167.	LAXMANRAO INAMDAR NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS: NEW PARADIGM IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
168.	LAXMANRAO INAMDAR NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	BLUE ECONOMY: FORMULATION, APPRAISAL AND MONITORING OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
169.	CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELECOM TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	BROADBAND TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURE TRENDS
170.	INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AUDIT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	ENVIRONMENT AUDIT
171.	NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS EXCISE AND NARCOTICS	SPECIALIZED COURSE FOR FOREIGN OFFICIALS ON FACILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN CUSTOMS
172.	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU	THREE WEEK TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FOREIGN JUDGES
173.	NATIONAL MUSEUM INSTITUTE OF HISTORY OF ART, CONSERVATION AND MUSEOLOGY	MUSEOLOGY AND MUSEUM MANAGEMENT
174.	S.P.MANDALI'S PRIN. L. N. WELINGKAR INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH	WORKSHOP FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS/ PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICIALS ON TECHNOLOGY DISRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON LEGACY BUSINESS MODELS & THE EMERGENCE OF ENTIRELY NEW ONES
175.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, AHMEDABAD	INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

176.	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION	CERTIFICATE COURSE IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM
177.	POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.	TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS - CONCEPT TO COMMISSIONIN
178.	CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELECOM TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	OPTICAL FIBER CABLE, SYSTEMS AND MODERN TELECOM TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGIES
179.	CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELECOM TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	NEXT GENERATION NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURE TRENDS
180.	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY	CYBER INTELLIGENCE - DARK WEB INVESTIGATION AND OSINT
181.	SOUTH INDIA TEXTILE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION	EMERGING AREAS IN TECHNICAL TEXTILES
182.	CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELECOM TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	NEXT GENERATION NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURE TRENDS
183.	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY	INVESTIGATION OF WHITE COLLAR CRIMES - FINANCIAL FRAUD INVESTIGATION
184.	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BANK MANAGEMENT	INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON BANK FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT - FOCUS RISK MANAGEMENT AND BASEL ACCORDS
185.	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH INNOVATION AND TRAINING	IOT TECHNOLOGIES & ECOSYSTEM
186.	PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING
187.	POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
188.	V.V.GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON HEALTH PROTECTION AND SECURITY

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF COUNTRIES BENEFITTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS**AND IN 2022-23**

S. No	COUNTRY/ ORGANIZATION	Total Slots 2022-23	Slots utilized 2022-23	Total Slots 2021-22	Total Slots 2020-21	Total Slots 2019-20	Slots utilized 2019-20
1	AARDO	80	0	80	80	80	36
2	AFRICAN UNION	10	0	10	10	10	0
3	ASEAN SECRETARIAT	5	0	5	5	5	0
4	BIMSTEC SECRETARIAT	100	0	100	100	100	0
5	CARICOM	2	0	5	5	5	0
6	CIRDAP	10	0	10	10	10	0
7	COMMONWEALTH	30	0	30	30	30	0
8	CP SECRETARIAT	50	0	50	50	50	0
9	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY	15	0	15	15	15	15
10	ECOWAS	10	0	10	10	10	1
11	GENEVA (WTO)	10	0	10	10	10	9
12	INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION	40	0	5	5	5	0
13	INTERNATIONAL SERICULTURE	20	0	20	20		

	COMMISSION						
14	INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE	300	0	300	165	165	60
15	PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT	5	0	5	5	5	0
16	SICA	5	0	5	5	5	3
17	UNECA	15	0	15	15	15	2
18	WORLD HINDI SECRETARIAT	5	0	5	5	5	0
1.	AFGHANISTAN	500	4	500	500	500	235
2.	ALBANIA	3	2	3	3	3	2
3.	ALGERIA	70	32	40	40	40	20
4.	ANGOLA	12	1	12	12	12	4
5.	ANGUILLA	5	0	3	3	3	0
6.	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	16	3	16	16	16	14
7.	ARGENTINA	40	13	40	40	40	28
8.	ARMENIA	40	5	40	40	40	21
9.	AUSTRALIA	0	0		1	1	1
10.	AZERBAIJAN	30	23	30	30	30	23
11.	BAHAMAS	2	0	2	2	2	0
12.	BAHRAIN	2	2	2	2	2	1
13.	BANGLADESH	500	468	600	600	600	423

14.	BARBADOS	2	0	2	2	2	0
15.	BELARUS	15	7	15	15	15	12
16.	BELIZE	12	1	12	12	12	6
17.	BENIN	25	0	25	25	25	20
18.	BHUTAN	325	166	325	325	325	279
19.	BOLIVIA	10	1	10	10	10	3
20.	BOSNIA - HERZEGOVINA	7	0	7	7	7	2
21.	BOTSWANA	200	29	200	200	200	110
22.	BRAZIL	10	0	10	10	10	4
23.	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	2	0	2	2	2	0
24.	BULGARIA	15	3	15	15	15	12
25.	BURKINA FASO	5	0	5	5	5	1
26.	BURUNDI	40	3	40	40	40	11
27.	CAMBODIA	250	76	200	200	200	123
28.	CAMEROON	32	23	32	32	32	21
29.	CAPE VERDE ISLAND	17	0	17	17	17	1
30.	CAYMAN ISLANDS	1	0	1	1	1	0
31.	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2	0	2	2	2	0

32.	CHAD	5	0	5	5	5	0
33.	CHILE	25	9	25	25	25	17
34.	COLOMBIA	100	2	100	100	100	76
35.	COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA	20	9	20	20	20	11
36.	COMOROS	15	0	15	15	15	13
37.	CONGO(REPUBLIC OF)	10	0	10	10	10	1
38.	COOK ISLANDS	2	0	2	2	2	0
39.	COSTA RICA	25	3	40	40	40	11
40.	COTE D'IVOIRE	100	42	100	100	100	42
41.	CROATIA	20	1	20	20	20	11
42.	CUBA	60	9	60	60	60	32
43.	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	90	11	90	90	90	71
44.	DJIBOUTI	6	2	6	6	6	0
45.	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	25	35	5	5	5	6
46.	ECUADOR	106	1	106	106	106	64
47.	EGYPT	200	13	200	200	200	114
48.	EL-SALVADOR	10	2	10	10	10	13
49.	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	32	4	32	32	32	1

50.	ERITREA	40	34	40	40	40	20
51.	ETHIOPIA	406	162	406	406	406	353
52.	FIJI	100	10	100	100	100	50
53.	GABON	10	0	10	10	10	1
54.	GAMBIA	60	6	60	60	60	34
55.	GEORGIA	20	10	20	20	20	7
56.	GHANA	150	58	150	150	150	57
57.	GRENADA	15	0	15	15	15	7
58.	GUATEMALA	40	13	40	40	40	45
59.	GUINEA	40	2	40	40	40	9
60.	GUINEA-BISSAU	8	0	8	8	8	25
61.	GUYANA	75	18	50	50	50	34
62.	HAITI	15	0	15	15	15	7
63.	HONDURAS	35	5	35	35	35	35
64.	HUNGARY	3	1	3	3	3	2
65.	INDONESIA	100	0	100	100	100	57
66.	IRAN	30	8	30	30	30	19
67.	IRAQ	200	116	200	200	200	78
68.	JAMAICA	30	12	30	30	30	28
69.	JORDAN	26	26	26	26	26	34

70.	KAZAKHSTAN	100	15	100	75	75	60
71.	KENYA	240	102	240	240	240	168
72.	KINGDOM OF ESWATINI (FORMERLY SWAZILAND)	50	28	50	50	50	35
73.	KIRIBATI	3	2	3	3	3	3
74.	KOREA(DPRK)	2	0	2	2	2	0
75.	KYRGYZSTAN	100	28	100	66	66	84
76.	LAOS	85	16	85	85	85	19
77.	LATVIA	4	3	4	4	4	3
78.	LEBANON	75	8	75	75	75	7
79.	LESOTHO	70	11	70	70	70	21
80.	LIBERIA	70	5	70	70	70	38
81.	LIBYA	10	3	10	10	10	0
82.	LITHUANIA	6	2	6	6	6	4
83.	MACEDONIA	2	2	2	2	2	0
84.	MADAGASCAR	107	23	107	107	107	60
85.	MALAWI	150	70	150	150	150	69
86.	MALAYSIA	30	3	30	30	30	7
87.	MALDIVES	200	115	200	200	200	84
88.	MALI	70	33	70	70	70	36

89.	MARSHALL ISLANDS	2	0	2	2	2	0
90.	MAURITANIA	5	0	5	5	5	0
91.	MAURITIUS	210	109	210	210	210	116
92.	MEXICO	35	4	35	35	35	21
93.	MICRONESIA	5	0	5	5	5	0
94.	MOLDOVA	5	1	5	5	5	4
95.	MONGOLIA	200	104	200	200	200	156
96.	MONTENEGRO	3	0	3	3	3	2
97.	MONTSERRAT	5	0	5	5	5	2
98.	MOROCCO	75	33	75	75	75	61
99.	MOZAMBIQUE	60	29	60	60	60	59
100.	MYANMAR	400	102	240	240	240	154
101.	NAMIBIA	125	4	125	125	125	52
102.	NAURU	3	0	3	3	3	2
103.	NEPAL	205	104	185	185	185	174
104.	NICARAGUA	25	9	10	10	10	0
105.	NIGER	156	55	156	156	156	48
106.	NIGERIA	250	83	250	250	250	183
107.	NIUE	2	0	2	2	2	0
108.	OMAN	125	9	125	125	125	56

109.	PALAU	5	0	5	5	5	0
110.	PALESTINE	168	9	168	168	168	87
111.	PANAMA	25	7	25	25	25	6
112.	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	10	0	10	10	10	6
113.	PARAGUAY	20	11	10	10	10	12
114.	PERU	60	6	60	60	60	32
115.	PHILIPPINES	65	33	65	65	65	42
116.	POLAND	5	1	5	5	5	1
117.	QATAR	2	0	2	2	2	2
118.	REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME	2	0	2	2	2	3
119.	ROMANIA	10	8	5	5	5	1
120.	RUSSIA	150	7	150	150	150	118
121.	RWANDA	10	4	10	10	10	5
122.	SAMOA	20	0	20	20	20	8
123.	SENEGAL	28	3	28	28	28	5
124.	SERBIA	15	0	15	15	15	11
125.	SEYCHELLES	90	19	90	90	90	43
126.	SIERRA LEONE	50	12	50	50	50	23
127.	SINGAPORE	0	0			2	1

128.	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	10	0	10	10	10	2
129.	SOLOMON ISLANDS	2	0	2	2	2	2
130.	SOMALIA	15	9	15	15	15	13
131.	SOUTH AFRICA	50	6	50	50	50	14
132.	SOUTH SUDAN	240	97	240	240	240	159
133.	SRI LANKA	402	106	402	402	402	275
134.	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	15	5	10	10	10	6
135.	ST. LUCIA	10	0	10	10	10	1
136.	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES	5	0	5	5	5	2
137.	SUDAN	270	132	270	270	270	258
138.	SURINAME	42	6	42	42	42	29
139.	SYRIA	90	25	90	90	90	78
140.	TAJIKISTAN	200	165	200	200	200	125
141.	TANZANIA	450	244	450	450	450	340
142.	THAILAND	40	17	40	40	40	26
143.	TIMOR LESTE	2	0	2	2	2	0
144.	TOGO	20	15	20	20	20	7
145.	TONGA	2	1	2	2	2	2
146.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	85	19	85	85	85	58

147.	TUNISIA	100	38	100	100	100	111
148.	TURKEY	25	11	25	25	25	10
149.	TURKMENISTAN	30	0	30	20	20	10
150.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	2	0	2	2	2	0
151.	TUVALU	3	0	3	3	3	1
152.	UGANDA	125	26	125	125	125	111
153.	UKRAINE	13	1	13	13	13	4
154.	URUGUAY	5	2	5	5	5	5
155.	UZBEKISTAN	200	70	200	140	140	134
156.	VANUATU	1	0	1	1	1	0
157.	VENEZUELA	30	1	30	30	30	27
158.	VIETNAM	130	17	130	130	130	96
159.	YEMEN	2	0	2	2	2	0
160.	ZAMBIA	170	34	170	170	170	142
161.	ZIMBABWE	217	24	217	217	217	165
	TOTALS	12164	3,792	11905	11642	11624	7295

LIST OF COURSES IN RESPONSE TO COUNTRY-REQUEST**CUSTOMISED PHYSICAL COURSES**

S.No.	COUNTRY	COURSE NAME	UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE [GOVT. (G)/ PVT.(P)]
1.	ARGENTINA	INTRODUCTION TO VIRTUAL REALITY	IIT GUWAHATI
2.	BANGLADESH	AERODROME CONTROL COURSE	CATC ALLAHABAD
3.	BANGLADESH	AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICES	CATC ALLAHABAD
4.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-I)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
5.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)

		BANGLADESH (BATCH-II)	
6.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-III)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
7.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-IV)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
8.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-V)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
9.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-02	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA

10.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-04	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
11.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-07	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
12.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-09	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
13.	BHUTAN	PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING DELHI
14.	BHUTAN	NEW ENTERPRISE CREATION AND SKILL UPGRADATION PROGRAMME FOR BHUTANESE YOUTH ON IMPACT ENTERPRISES ITERATION -I	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA
15.	BHUTAN	NEW ENTERPRISE CREATION AND SKILL UPGRADATION PROGRAMME FOR BHUTANESE YOUTH ON IMPACT ENTERPRISES ITERATION -II	ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA

16.	BHUTAN	NEW ENTERPRISE CREATION AND SKILL UPGRADATION PROGRAMME FOR BHUTANESE YOUTH ON IMPACT ENTERPRISES ITERATION III	ENTREPRENEURSHI P DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA
17.	BHUTAN	NEW ENTERPRISE CREATION AND SKILL UPGRADATION PROGRAMME FOR BHUTANESE YOUTH ON IMPACT ENTERPRISES ITERATION -IV	ENTREPRENEURSHI P DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA
18.	CAMBODIA	GOOD GOVERNANCE	RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY GANDHINAGAR
19.	CAMBODIA	'WOMEN EMPOWERMENT; ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND POLICY GUIDELINES	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
20.	BANGLADESH	APPROACH CONTROL COURSE	CATC ALLAHABAD
21.	ARGENTINA	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EMBEDDED SYSTEM AND DESIGN	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, PUNE

22.	ARGENTINA	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BIG DATA ANALYTICS	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, PUNE
23.	BANGLADESH	PANS OPS INSTRUMENT PROCEDURE DESIGN COURSE	CATC ALLAHABAD
24.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-VI)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
25.	BANGLADESH	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FIELD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS OF BANGLADESH (BATCH-VII)	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
26.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-12	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
27.	BANGLADESH	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-13	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA

28.	CAMBODIA, VIENTIANE, MYANMAR,BANGKOK,HANOI	INTEGRAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	NIRD
29.	GHANA	TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE AREA OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
30.	IRAQ	TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CYBER SECURITY & MALWARE ANALYTICS, REVERSE ENGINEERING FOR REPUBLIC OF IRAQ	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI
31.	KENYA	TRAILING PROGRAMME ON FORENSIC DNA TECHNOLOGY FOR 20 BIOLOGY FORENSIC ANALYSTS OF KENYA	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
32.	KYRGYZSTAN	PREPARATION OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
33.	MALDIVES	IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS OF MALDIVES	AMITY UNIVERSITY

34.	MAURITIUS	PORT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS TRAINING TO THE GOVT OF MAURITIUS	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY, MUMBAI
35.	MONGOLIA	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN OFF GRID APPLICATIONS FOR MONGOLIAN RURAL WOMEN	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOLAR ENERGY
36.	MYANMAR	AGRO-TECHNOLOGY IN THE AREAS OF COTTON, BEANS, ONIONS AND SUGARCANE CULTIVATION	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
37.	MYANMAR	MID CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATORS OF MYANMAR	NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (NCGG)
38.	MYANMAR	MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK	TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, MUMBAI
39.	MYANMAR	INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

40.	MYANMAR	TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR MYANMAR JUDGES & JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-05	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
41.	MYANMAR	TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR MYANMAR JUDGES & JUDICIAL OFFICERS SE-14	NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY NJA
42.	MYANMAR	EVS, BATTERIES AND CHARGING STATIONS	NTPC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
43.	MYANMAR	CROSS BORDER ENERGY TRADING	NTPC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
44.	MYANMAR	SOLAR ENERGY AND PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS	NTPC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
45.	MYANMAR	MICROGRIDS	NTPC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
46.	MYANMAR	SMARTGRIDS	NTPC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

47.	NEPAL	INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
48.	NEPAL	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON ELECTION MANAGEMENT FOR ECN OFFICIALS	INDIA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT
49.	NEPAL	SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ATTORNEYS FROM THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, NEPAL	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
50.	NIGERIA	CUSTOMIZED TRAINING COURSE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY GANDHINAGAR
51.	SANTO DOMINGO	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CYBER SECURITY & MALWARE ANALYTICS, REVERSE ENGINEERING FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI
52.	SANTO DOMINGO	SPECIAL SHORT COURSE ON REMOTE SENSING WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF REMOTE SENSING

53.	SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, NEPAL, MALDIVES, MAURITIUS, BHUTAN	THE ST STEPHENS YOUNG LEADERS, NEIGHBOURHOOD - FIRST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
54.	SUDAN	NETWORKING, DATA-CENTRE AND SECURITY	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING MOHALI
55.	SUDAN	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR BUSINESS AND OFFICER PURPOSE	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY
56.	SUDAN	SOFTWARE AND E- GOVERNANCE	LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY
57.	TANZANIA	ONLINE CHILD ABUSE AND CYBER CRIME	NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
58.	TANZANIA	EXPOSURE TO SUNRISE-SECTORS OF INDIA @ 75	JAIPURIA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
59.	UZBEKISTAN	SHORT TERM HINDI ENGLISH VICE VERSA INTERPRETATION COURSE	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidhyalaya

60.	UZBEKISTAN	DIAGNOSIS OF PESTS, PEST RISK ANALYSIS, PEST SURVEILLANCE AND PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS FOR UZBEK OFFICIALS	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT
61.	UZBEKISTAN	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF BOMB DISPOSAL BD ADVANCE 02	NSG
62.	UZBEKISTAN	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF PERSONAL SECURITY OFFICER PSO – 75	NSG
63.	UZBEKISTAN	SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF BOMB DISPOSAL BD BASIC –05	NSG

CUSTOMISED eITEC COURSES

1	Bangladesh	Special training programme for Bangladesh judges and judicial officers	NJA, Bhopal
2	Maldives	Supply chain management	PGIMER, Chandigarh
3	Bangladesh	Basic ILS concept course	CATC, Allahabad
4	Bangladesh	Basic Radar concept course	CATC, Allahabad
5	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from	EFLU, Hyderabad

		Myanmar advanced (Iteration-I)	
6	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from Myanmar Basic (Iteration-II)	EFLU, Hyderabad
7	Angola	Database and system analysis	CDACN, Noida
8	Uzbekistan	Special course in English Language proficiency for officials from Uzbekistan (Iteration-I)	EFLU, Hyderabad
9	Uzbekistan	Special course in English Language proficiency for officials from Uzbekistan (Iteration-II)	EFLU, Hyderabad
10	Angola	Network management	CDACN, Noida
11	Morocco	Deep learning	CDACN, Noida
12	Angola	Cyber security	CDACN, Noida
13	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from Myanmar advanced (Iteration-III)	EFLU, Hyderabad
14	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from Myanmar Basic (Iteration-IV)	EFLU, Hyderabad
15	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from Myanmar advanced (Iteration-V)	EFLU, Hyderabad
16	Myanmar	Special course in English language proficiency for officials from Myanmar Basic (Iteration-VI)	EFLU, Hyderabad
17	Cambodia	Training in the field of water transmission and distribution engineering	IITR-DWRDM, Roorkee
18	IP/PIC	Renewable energy for Indo-Pacific region and or pacific island	RISDC, New Delhi

		countries	
19	Mozambique	Fundamentals of MPLS Batch II	NTIPRIT, Ghaziabad