

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2371
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
POSTING OF OFFICIALS IN EMBASSIES
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to appoint Malayalam speaking officials at senior levels in Embassies/Consulates to handle large number of queries coming from the people who know no other language other than Malayalam;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

- (a) There are no specific proposals to appoint Malayalam-speaking officials at senior levels in our Embassies/Consulates.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Ministry is sensitive to the needs of the Indian community living in foreign countries. Wherever possible, the Ministry tries to post officials particularly those who are likely to work in Consular Section, who are proficient in a specific Indian language. Moreover, the Indian Embassies have facilities for interpretation when the officials are interacting with the members of the Indian community in cases where this may be necessitated.