

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2080
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
RULES FOR LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES BY IFS OFFICERS
Mahato Shri Bir Sing

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the rules framed for learning foreign languages for the officers of the Indian Foreign Service;
- (b) the procedure adopted for the selection of languages;
- (c) whether the rules regarding the selection of languages were violated or altered in the year 2001 and 2002;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Every officer of the Indian Foreign Service is normally confirmed in Service only after passing an examination in a foreign language allotted to him for compulsory study. For this purpose the Government sanctions expenditure on attending a course in the particular language at an institution abroad during his first posting as a Third Secretary (Language Trainee). No reward / allowance is admissible for study of compulsory foreign language. Officers are normally expected to pass the prescribed examination in the compulsory foreign language within a specified period. The Government also offers incentives for officers who study and pass prescribed examinations in additional foreign languages.
- (b) The selection of languages for compulsory study is based on an assessment of the need for language proficiency of officers of Ministry of External Affairs in areas of importance, as determined from time-to-time in accordance with the evolving international scenario.
- (c) There was no violation / alteration in the rules regarding the selection of languages in the year 2001 or 2002.
- (d), (e) & (f) The question does not arise.