

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2885  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006  
RECOGNITION TO HINDI IN UNO  
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) the names of the languages that have been recognized by the UNO which are spoken by less number of people than Hindi; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to secure due recognition to Hindi in the UNO?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) The UN has six official languages viz. English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic. The UN does not officially publish or maintain figures of the number of people who speak these languages.

(b) The Government has been actively taking necessary measures for introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the United Nations. A high level Committee under the chairmanship of External Affairs Minister was constituted on 26th February, 2003 followed by a sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs in August, 2003 and a core-group headed by the Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs in September, 2003 to look into this matter and take necessary measures. As a step in this direction it was decided to prepare an Advocacy Paper to present the Indian case with regard to introducing Hindi in the UN. The draft Advocacy Paper has been prepared which is being currently reviewed by the Ministry. However, this has financial, procedural as well as legal implications. The procedure for getting any language recognized as one of the Official Languages of the UN involves obtaining approval of the General Assembly to amend Rule-51 of the Rules of Procedure. Such a proposal has to be approved by more than half of the members of the General Assembly where every member-State has a vote. At present the proposal would require approval of 96 member States given the current membership of 191. In addition, since recognizing any language as the official language of the UN entails a substantial increase in the expenditure of the UN necessitating an enhanced contribution by every member country, most of the members remain reluctant to support such a proposal.