

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
INDIAN AMBASSADORS ABROAD
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian ambassadors working in different countries as on date, category-wise and country-wise;
- (b) the number of posts of Indian ambassadors lying vacant in different countries and the time by when these posts are likely to be filled;
- (c) the details regarding since when these posts are lying vacant, country-wise; and
- (d) the criteria adopted for selecting personnel of IFS, IAS or any other service for the said posts alongwith the number of such personnel sent abroad so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) At present, there are 108 Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners in different countries, and the details country-wise and category-wise, are placed at Annexure I.

(b) & (c) The posts of Ambassadors/High Commissioners are vacant in Jordan (1st December 2003), Cote D`voire (30th June, 2004), Oman (7th August, 2004), Canada (1st September, 2004), Uganda (27th August, 2004) and Fiji (6th November, 2004). It is expected that these posts would be filled by February 2005.

[The posts have been vacant from the date indicated in the brackets above]

(d) The Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. At present, 101 officers belonging to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) have been posted as Ambassadors/High Commissioners. There are 7 Non-Career diplomats presently serving as Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

ANNEXURE - I

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHERE INDIAN AMBASSADORS/HIGH COMMISSIONERS ARE POSTED AS ON NOVEMBER 24, 2004

S.No.	Grade	Name of Countries where Indian Ambassadors/ High Commissioners are presently posted.	Total
1	Grade I of IFS	Ambassadors - Argentina, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, USA. High Commissioners - Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, U.K.	31
2	Grade II of IFS	Ambassadors - Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Qatar, Serbia & Montenegro, Vietnam. High Commissioners - Australia, Cyprus, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka.	21

3 Grade III of IFS Ambassadors - Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bulgaria, 56
Cambodia, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia,
Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Korea (North),
Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar,
Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Poland,
Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Sudan,
Suriname, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey,
Turkmenistan, UAE, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela,
Yemen, Zimbabwe.

High Commissioners - Botswana, Brunei Darussalam,
Guyana, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guinea,
Seychelles, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Zambia.