

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1484

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a World Hindi Conference was held in July, 2007 in Washington;
- (b) if so, the aims of holding such Conference abroad;
- (c) the issues discussed at the Conference and the decisions arrived at;
- (d) the total number of members who participated in the Conference;
- (e) the basis of selection of these members; and
- (f) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the Conference?

Answer

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

- (a) The 8th World Hindi Conference was held from 13-15 July 2007 in New York, USA.
- (b) Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages of the world. Organising Hindi conferences abroad helps in providing a platform to Hindi scholars, writers, teachers and others to exchange information about the developments in the field of the Hindi in different parts of the world and to address issues relating to teaching of Hindi as a foreign language. These conferences also help in identifying ways to further propagate Hindi outside India.
- (c) 9 Academic Sessions were held during the 8th World Hindi Conference on the following subjects:
 - (i) Hindi in the United Nations Organization
 - (ii) Teaching of Hindi in India and Abroad – Problems & Solutions
 - (iii) Globalization, Media & Hindi
 - (iv) Hindi writing abroad – Pravasi Hindi Sahitya
 - (v) Role of Information Technology in Promotion of Hindi
 - (vi) Role of Hindi films in Propagation of Hindi
 - (vii) Hindi, Youth & Science
 - (viii) Hindi Language & Literature – Various Dimensions
 - (ix) Role of Translation in Literature, Hindi Children Literature, Devnagri Script
- A copy of the Conference Declaration containing the main decisions of the conference is enclosed as an Annexure.
- (d) About 850 delegates from India, USA and a number of other countries participated in the conference.
- (e) Ministries, Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Universities, Public Sector Undertakings, Hindi Organisations in India were requested to nominate delegates for the conference. Selection was done only in case of members of the official delegation, which was approved by the Prime Minister. The remaining participants registered for participating in the conference. In respect of these persons no selection was involved.
- (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1484 REGARDING "WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE" FOR ANSWER ON 22.08.2007

8th World Hindi Conference – Declaration

The 8th World Hindi Conference was held from 13-15 July 2007 in New York. The inaugural ceremony of the Conference was held at the United Nations Headquarters. Inauguration of the 8th World Hindi Conference for the first time ever in the Conference Hall of the United Nations Organisations was a historic achievement for Hindi lovers all over the world.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations addressed the Inaugural session of the Conference. This in itself was an important achievement.

The Conference welcomes the resolve to make Hindi, already a language spoken in many countries, an official language of the United Nations as mentioned in the audio - visual address of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the inauguration.

The conference also welcomes the suggestion made by the Prime Minister that Hindi writings of Indians living abroad should also be included in the Hindi syllabus and standard Hindi curriculum should be developed for teaching Hindi in other countries.

The conference also welcomes the call made by the Prime Minister to develop good Hindi software, hardware and search engines in order to make Hindi a powerful language of the internet and also the need to honour and respect those engaged in the field of Hindi both in India and abroad.

While welcoming the message of the Prime Minister, the conference urges the Government of India to launch a Government-authorized campaign to mobilize support of the majority of the member-nations of the United Nations and take all possible steps to ensure that Hindi is recognized as one of the official languages of the UN. NRI Organisations abroad should also make an effort to get the support of the Governments of their respective country.

In addition, as a result of the discussions and deliberations held during the 8th World Hindi Conference, the following is proposed:

1. In order to popularize teaching of Hindi and Devnagari script, a standardized syllabus be prepared for teaching Hindi as a second language and a system be evolved to recognise Hindi teachers.
2. To ensure active and purposeful functioning of the World Hindi Secretariat, the Governments of India and Mauritius should extend all possible administrative and financial assistance to the Secretariat and should consider setting up of regional offices of the Secretariat in Delhi and in 4-5 other countries. The Conference calls upon the Secretariat to develop a website on `Viswa Manch Per Hindi` in order to popularize Hindi.
3. Simple and good books in Hindi on science, technology and technical subjects should be encouraged. Effective measures be taken to popularize information technology in Hindi. A system based on universally recognized Unicode be developed and made available to all.
4. Database of foreign universities and schools where Hindi is taught be prepared. A list of Hindi teachers should also be prepared.
5. The Conference calls upon the Hindi lovers of the world, especially non-resident Indians and Indian nationals working abroad to assist in promotion and propagation of Hindi language and literature abroad.
6. Arrangement for research scholarship be made for foreign Hindi scholars at the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyala, Wardha.
7. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan should also contribute actively in promotion of Hindi abroad and preparation of Hindi syllabus.
8. Setting up of Hindi chairs in foreign university be considered.
9. In addition to being a language of literature, Hindi should also be used as a language of modern science and commerce.
10. India should encourage use of Hindi at national and international level symposia and conferences.