

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3984
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
USE OF HINDI IN EMBASSIES/ CONSULATES ABROAD
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates wherein cent percent, 75 percent, 50 percent and 25 percent work is being done in Hindi, country-wise;
- (b) the names of the countries where sufficient arrangements for interpreters, stenographers, typists and typewriters/computers have been made and the name of countries where these facilities have not been provided; and
- (c) the existing position of libraries and availability of original reference books in Hindi for the promotion of the language abroad?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Our Missions abroad have to deal mainly with the local Governments, hence most of the work is being done in the official language of the country concerned by them. However, within the Missions most of the staff can speak and understand Hindi. Hindi is used for conversation within the Missions, in dealing with Hindi speaking PIOs/NRIs and also during official meetings within the Missions. However, it is difficult to quantify the work done in Hindi by the Missions.

There are 15 Missions with facilities for Hindi interpreters. Hindi stenographers/typists are available in 23 Missions. Hindi typewriters and Hindi software for computers have been provided in 40 Missions. Details are placed on the table of the House. Books on Hindi language, literature, Indian history, art, culture, Hindi-English, English-Hindi dictionaries and books for learning Hindi are sent to Indian Missions abroad every year by the Ministry for their libraries. In addition, Missions' requests for Hindi books and teaching aid material from time to time are met on priority basis by the Ministry. Consequently, most Missions have well maintained libraries with Hindi books.