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Title: Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 1st Report of Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2004-2005).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, I may be permitted to read the statement.*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you need not read it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: It is a very important one.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to emphasise any important portion, you can read it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in pursuance of Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2004-05 and presented their First Report in this regard to the Lok Sabha on 20th August, 2004. The report contained 50 recommendations. They related to budgetary procedures, checks on disproportionate expenditures in the last quarter of the financial year, streamlining of minor heads of expenditure, the need to avoid huge unspent balance towards the close of the financial year, early completion of Ministry of External Affairs' projects in India and abroad, mobilising assistance of NRIs for furthering the interests of the country, early finalisation of the panel of advocates for court cases especially for extradition proceedings, inspection of Indian Missions and Posts abroad, opening of District Passport Centres in all the Districts, augmenting the budget of the ICCR, the Society for Research and Information Systems for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries as well as that of the Indian Council for World Affairs, the need to make greater efforts to make Hindi as one of the official languages at the UN, the better utilisation of the budget allotted for technical and economic cooperation programmes with developing countries etc.

* Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2239/05

The action taken report was submitted to the Standing Committee in November, 2004. Most of the recommendations of the Standing Committee were accepted by the Government and are being implemented. Some of the recommendations are under consideration of the Ministry for a decision. The present status of implementation of the recommendations is detailed in the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The rest of the statement may be submitted.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your achievements.
