

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4968
ANSWERED ON- 31/03/2023

PROMOTION OF HINDI AT UN

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

(a) Whether any steps have been taken by the Government to include Hindi language in the United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for the promotion of Hindi in foreign countries and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) The Government of India has accorded high priority to promotion of Hindi and continues to take measures for its recognition and increased usage at the United Nations and other international platforms. Hindi is already one of the nine working languages at UNESCO.

In recent past, Indian leaders have delivered statements in Hindi at the UN, including Prime Minister’s address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Sessions in 2014, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

In 2018, a Voluntary Financial Contribution Agreement was signed between the UN and the Government of India to promote Hindi within the UN system for a two-year term. This was extended by another 5 years in 2019 and is currently in force till March 2025.

Pursuant to this Agreement, UN has launched Hindi social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as well as a Hindi website of UN News. In addition, the UN broadcasts its programmes on the UN Radio website in Hindi, issues a weekly Hindi news bulletin on Sound Cloud, publishes a UN blog in Hindi and has provided a Hindi extension of the UN News Reader mobile application for both Android and iOS mobile phone operating systems.

In addition, India co-sponsored a landmark UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/268 on ‘Multilingualism’ which was unanimously adopted on 10 June 2022. For the first time, this Resolution also mentioned Hindi language, encouraging the UN Department of Global Communications to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi.

(c) Government of India also continues to make strenuous efforts to promote Hindi language in foreign countries. As in previous years, on 10 January 2023, the “World Hindi Day” was celebrated across the world, including by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, to present Hindi as an international language and promote its usage worldwide. In 2022 on this occasion, UNESCO agreed to publish descriptions of India’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Hindi on its website. Hindi is also one of the working languages of UNESCO.

In addition, the Government is undertaking several initiatives and programs for the promotion and dissemination of Hindi abroad through Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts. Some of the major initiatives and programs are as below:

- (i) The 12th World Hindi Conference was organized in Fiji from 15-17 February 2023 by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in association with Government of Fiji. It provided a platform for Hindi scholars and researchers from all over the world to discuss the applications of Hindi language in various walks of life and promotion of Hindi.
- (ii) Recognize contributions of foreign scholars by awarding Hindi Samman Awards. During the 12th World Hindi Conference, at Nadi, Fiji, 19 scholars from abroad as well as 2 institutions from abroad were felicitated.
- (iii) Hindi teaching materials such as textbooks, Hindi learning CDs, dictionaries etc. are supplied to the libraries of Indian Missions and educational institutions for use by members of the Indian Diaspora, including students.
- (iv) Facilitation in the form of providing political clearance and visa facility is provided for foreign students coming to study Hindi at *Kendriya Hindi Sansthan*, Agra.
- (v) Financial grants are given to Missions and Centers for the celebration of Hindi Day (14 September) and World Hindi Day (10 January).
- (vi) Financial grants are given to foreign universities, institutions and community organizations for teaching, publication, and academic activities. In 2022-23, a grant of Indian Rupees 21,89,502/- was approved for 8 Universities for this purpose.
- (vii) Financial Grants are also given for honorarium to teachers involved in teaching Hindi in Indian Missions and Community Centers.
- (viii) One model Panini Hindi language laboratory was established in Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Mauritius in 2018.
- (ix) The Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University was established at Wardha, which is an exclusive international center of study and research for foreign students.
- (x) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Central Hindi Directorate (CHD) conducted online Hindi Classes for foreign nationals from different countries in 2022. Similarly, a customised Hindi language course was conducted for Government employees from Bhutan at Antarashtriya Vishwa Vidhyalya in 2022.
- (xi) It may be noted that ICCR has been inviting international students of Hindi under Visitors Programme of ICCR.
