

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:24  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003  
PROMOTION OF HINDI AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
BIR SING MAHATO; RATNA SINGH

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

- (a) the number of the Hindi Officers and Cultural Officers posted abroad;
- (b) the details of the duties assigned to them;
- (c) the details of their achievements; and
- (d) the amount spent for the promotion of Hindi and Cultural activities abroad during the last three years?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2003

(a) to (d) There are no officers designated specifically as Hindi Officers and Cultural Officers posted abroad. However, there are three Attaches (Hindi & Culture), three Second Secretaries (Hindi & Culture), fifteen Directors (Cultural Centres) and ten Visiting Professors (Hindi) posted abroad in different countries, by the Ministry of External Affairs and the ICCR. (A list of the countries is given at Annexure-I).

2. The activities carried out by Attaches/Second Secretaries (Hindi & Culture) include implementing the Official Language Policy in the Missions, as well as, promotional and propagational activities of Hindi Language and Indian culture in respective countries. They develop contacts with the Universities, Institutions, voluntary organizations and groups of people engaged in Hindi teaching and cultural activities, under the guidance of the Missions. They have helped to organize Hindi Weeks/Fortnights, in distributing Hindi books and other reading material to the local schools, colleges and NGOs. Baatcheet Clubs have also been established in some countries with a considerable number of persons of Indian origin participating in them. Local Radio and Television broadcast programmes on Hindi and Indian culture.

3. The activities carried out by the Directors (Cultural Centre), posted at Indian Cultural Centres abroad, under the aegis of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, include organising cultural evenings, exhibitions of Indian books, photographs, paintings and other art forms; film shows, performances of dance and music, seminars and discussions on India; maintaining contacts with educational, cultural and creative organisations and publishing houses, providing accurate information on all aspects of Indian civilization, culture and contemporary developments to interested individuals and organisations; and promoting and propagating the knowledge and use of Hindi.

4. The activities carried out by the Visiting Hindi Professors deputed at chairs of Indian Studies abroad, under the aegis of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, include teaching Hindi courses at the respective University/ Institution, drawing up necessary curricula and course contents for the Hindi teaching programmes introduced by the University; liaison activities between university and the respective Indian Mission, developing references and reading material for the Hindi department of the respective University; and propagating Hindi by promotional activities including the organisation of events, such as, Kavi Sammelan, Hindi Divas etc.

5. The achievements made by these various officers and schemes can be summarised as the overall propagation of Indian culture in various fields and the promotion of Hindi abroad.

6. Total amount spent on the above activities by the Ministry & ICCR during the last three years was Rs. 6,28,61,987 in the year 2000-2001, Rs. 7,57,64,857 in the year 2001-02 and Rs.8,09,61,212 in the year 2002-03. (The break-up of expenditure is given at Annexure-II).

7. In addition to the above offices and schemes which have been set up specifically for propagation of Hindi and Culture in various countries, there are, in several of our Embassies and High Commissions abroad, officers from the Ministry of External Affairs who handle, among other duties, the work pertaining to promotion of Indian culture and Hindi abroad. For instance, in some of our larger missions where there are no cultural centers, or Hindi & Culture Officers posted, specific Officers are designated to look after Culture

along with other activities such as Information, Media and Education. Even in the smaller missions, one of the officers is generally given the responsibility for handling cultural matters along with other general duties. In that sense, all Indian missions abroad are, to some extent, involved in the propagation of Indian Culture and Hindi abroad, which forms an integral part of their activities.

#### ANNEXURE-I

##### List of Missions where Attache/Second Secretary (Hindi & Culture) have been posted.

1. Suva, Fiji (Second Secy.)
2. Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago (Second Secy.)
3. Port Louis, Mauritius (Second Secy)
4. London, U. K. (Attache)
5. Paramaribo, Suriname (Attache)
6. Kathmandu, Nepal (Attache)

Indian Cultural Centres set up by ICCR in different countries, where Directors have been posted

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC), Moscow, Russia.
2. Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), Cairo, Egypt.
3. Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), Port Louis, Mauritius.
4. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Georgetown, Guyana.
5. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Paramaribo, Suriname.
6. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC), Jakarta, Indonesia.
7. The Nehru Centre (TNC), London, U.K.
8. The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany.
9. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Almaty, Kazakhstan.
10. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Tashkent, Uzbekistan
11. Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation ((MGICC), Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.
12. Indian Cultural Central (ICC) Johannesburg (South Africa)
13. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Durban (South Africa)
14. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) Colombo, Sri Lanka.
15. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

List of Chairs set up in foreign Universities / Institutions by ICCR, in different countries, where Visiting Professors have been posted.

1. Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
2. Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary.
3. Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria.
4. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea.
5. University of West Indies, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

6. Bucharest University, Bucharest, Romania
- 7 Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.
8. Beijing University, Beijing, China
9. Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname.
10. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia.

Annexure-II

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
------	---------	---------	---------

1. Expenditure booked by the Ministry under Head of Propagation of Hindi abroad:	Rs. 50,32,825	Rs. 74,22,076	Rs. 42,35,062
--	---------------	---------------	---------------

2. Expenditure booked by the six Missions on Hindi & Cultural activities, where Attache/ Second Secretary (Hindi & Culture) have been posted,:	Rs. 1,35,67,162	Rs. 1,80,05,781	Rs.2,03,42,150
---	-----------------	-----------------	----------------

3. Expenditure booked by the ICCR for propagation of Indian Culture abroad through Indian Cultural Centres:	Rs. 4,42,62,000	Rs. 5,03,37,000	Rs. 5,63,84,000
--	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Total Expenditure	Rs. 6,28,61,987	Rs. 7,57,64,857	Rs. 8,09,61,212
-------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------