

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2144  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011  
TRAINING OF OFFICERS  
Tharoor Shri Shashi

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

- (a) the expenditure incurred on foreign language training for officers in the Ministry during the last two years;
- (b) the number of senior-level posts (Ambassadors and Deputies) currently occupied by officers with the language skills relevant to their country of posting;
- (c) whether it is true that there is no Arabic-speaking Ambassador posted in countries with Arabic as the official language;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the posting policy reflects the utilization of services of officers on whom expenses have incurred in providing training in specific languages relevant to service in those countries where they have been currently posted; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) The expenditure incurred on foreign language training for officers in the Ministry during the last two years is Rs 2,70,85,056 (Rupees two crores seventy lakhs eighty five thousand and fifty six)
- (b) Posting of officers to our Missions and posts abroad is on the basis of functional requirements of the post in question and the suitability of the proposed officer to fill it. A list of senior level officers posted in countries with language skills relevant to their country of posting is placed at ANNEXURE A.
- (c) A list of Arabic speaking Ambassadors posted in countries with Arabic as the official language is placed at ANNEXURE B.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) & (f) Posting of officers to Missions and posts abroad is on the basis of functional requirements of the post in question and the suitability of the proposed officer to fill it. Subject to the above, language skills and work experience of the officer being posted are also taken into consideration while deciding the posting.