

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
HINDI IN UNO
Mishra Shri Mahabal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is making efforts to get the status of official language for Hindi in the United Nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the outcome of the Governmental efforts taken so far? ANSWER

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government has been taking measures to make Hindi one of the official languages of the United Nations. A high level Committee under the Chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister was constituted on 26 February 2003. This was followed by a sub-Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for External Affairs in August 2003 to examine this matter and take necessary measures. Keeping in mind this objective, the 8th World Hindi Conference was organized and its inaugural session held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 13 July 2007. The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban ki-Moon addressed the inaugural session. Additionally, on several occasions Indian leaders have delivered statements at the UN in Hindi. Necessary arrangements were made for simultaneous interpretation of these statements in English by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York. Government of India's sustained efforts have also ensured that the United Nations produces a weekly programme in Hindi and makes it available on the UN Radio Website in Hindi.

Procedurally, the addition of Hindi as another official language in the UN requires adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly supported by a majority of the 193 UN Member States. The addition of another official language also entails a significant increase in the budget of the UN (personnel, equipment, and other recurring costs), and Member States have been generally reluctant to support proposals entailing an additional financial burden.