

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1526
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
POSTS OF INDIAN AMBASSADORS
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian Ambassadors working in foreign countries as on date, category-wise and country-wise ;
- (b) the number of posts of Ambassadors lying vacant, country-wise and since when these are lying vacant;
- (c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up;
- (d) the number of Ambassadors belonging to Indian Foreign Service and Indian Administrative Service; and
- (e) the details of those Ambassadors who have been inducted into service from private sector and who do not belong to any specific Government service?

Answer

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

- (a) There are a total of 126 Indian Missions abroad, 96 of them are headed by Ambassadors and 30 by High Commissioners, country and category wise details are provided in the attached ANNEXURE.
- (b) The positions of Heads of Mission have recently become available or fallen vacant at the following stations:
 - (i) Lilongwe, Malawi (New Mission)
 - (ii) London, United Kingdom (July 2011)
 - (iii) Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (September 2011)
 - (iv) Tripoli, Libya (September, 2011)
 - (v) Berlin, Germany (October, 2011); and
 - (vi) Dhaka, Bangladesh (October, 2011)
- (c) The process of identifying suitable candidates for the above stations is underway. In addition, Heads of Missions who have already been selected for the following Missions, are likely to join soon: Reykjavik (Iceland); Caracas (Venezuela); Vientiane (Lao PDR), Accra (Ghana), Dakar (Senegal), Abidjan (Ivory Coast). The vacancy position varies from time to time.
- (d) Of the Heads of Missions in position/appointed, 113 are serving career Diplomats and two are serving officers from the Indian Administrative Service.
- (e) The following five Heads of Missions are non-serving or non-career Appointees.
 - (i) Ambassador of India, Antananarivo (Madagascar) – Retired Indian Foreign Service officer;
 - (ii) Ambassador of India, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) – Non-career Appointee;
 - (iii) Ambassador of India, Ljubljana (Slovenia) – Retired Indian Administrative Service officer;
 - (iv) High Commissioner of India, Wellington (New Zealand) – Non-career Appointee;
 - (v) Ambassador of India, Washington (United States of America) – Retired Indian Foreign Service officer.