

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4262
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 9th World Hindi Conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a resolution to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN) was passed in the said conference;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the efforts made by the Government to get Hindi the status of an official language of the UN?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The 9th World Hindi Conference was organised at Johannesburg, South Africa from 22-24 September 2012. The Hindi Shiksha Sangh, South Africa who are actively involved in the propagation and promotion of Hindi in the region, were the local partners. The official Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur. A separate delegation of distinguished Members of Parliament also participated. Minister of Finance of South Africa, His Excellency Mr. Pravin Gordhan was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony whereas Minister of Art and Culture of Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. Mookhesswur Choonee was a distinguished guest, both at the opening and closing ceremonies. The inaugural ceremony was also attended by the South African Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Marius Fransman. Grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi and a prominent South African Gandhian scholar Ms. Ila Gandhi was a special guest on the inaugural day. Over 700 scholars and Hindi-lovers from India and abroad participated in the Conference.

(c) & (d) As in the past, the 9th World Hindi Conference concluded with the adoption of a Resolution which, inter-alia, called for a time-bound action for getting Hindi recognised as one of the official languages of the United Nations (UN).

(e) Adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of the UN has always been an important matter for India and the Government has always been attempting to promote the use of Hindi at the UN. On many occasions, Indian leaders have delivered their statements at the UN in Hindi. An important step in this direction was the hosting of the Inaugural Session of the 8th World Hindi Conference at the headquarters of UN. The Conference was also addressed by the United Nations Secretary General. This is also the result of Government's efforts that the UN produces a weekly programme in Hindi and makes it available on the UN Radio Website in Hindi language.