

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:647
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013
TEACHING OF HINDI ABROAD
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up chairs/institutions/centres abroad for teaching Hindi to citizens of foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (c) the details of budget allocated to such centres; year-wise during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government has made any documentation of achievements, if any, of such centres;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of centres established in last two years or proposed to be established in coming years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. To promote teaching and thereby development of Hindi in foreign countries, ICCR has established Hindi Chairs in various prestigious Universities abroad. ICCR at present maintains 25 Hindi Chairs. Country wise details of these Chairs are at 'Annexure 1'.

ICCR is also presently maintaining 36 full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres and 2 Sub-Centres in various countries (list is at Annexure 2) for propagation of Indian arts, music & culture. However, no ICC has been opened exclusively for teaching Hindi. As the Council's primary objective is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries in order to promote awareness and appreciation of India's composite cultural heritage abroad, the ICCs abroad engage in a host of activities like conducting classes in classical Indian dances, music, organizing cultural programmes, outreach activities, conferences and seminars, celebration of Indian festivals etc. ICCs as part of their regular activities, also arrange Hindi classes at some of the Centres listed below with the help of local talent available. The ICCs where Hindi classes are presently conducted are : Jakarta & Bali (Indonesia), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) Georgetown (Guyana), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Cairo (Egypt), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China), Mexico City, Sao Paulo (Brazil), The Hague (Netherlands), Seoul (S. Korea) and Suva (Fiji).

In addition to the above, three part time Hindi Teachers are also taking classes in three cities in Poland (Warsaw, Gdansk and Krakow), with ICCR funding.

(c) The details of budget allocated for maintenance of the 25 Hindi Chairs in the financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13 and on part-time Hindi Teachers in Poland are given at Annexure 1. As far as Hindi teaching at ICCs is concerned, the expenditure on this account is met out of the overall budget of the respective Cultural Centre. No specific budget allocation is made for Hindi teaching. Such locally hired teachers are paid between US\$ 200 to 500 depending upon the location of Centres and the number of students taking classes.

(d) & (e) Yes. The performance and utility of the Chairs are currently being evaluated on the basis of feedback from both the concerned Indian Mission and occupants of the Chairs. ICCR's Academic Advisory Committee which has just been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of President, ICCR Dr. Karan Singh, has been mandated with preparing a policy paper on the modalities of deciding where to open Chairs, selection of professors thereof, and establishing a system of regular monitoring & review which could be followed by ICCR in the future.

The functioning and achievements of the Hindi teachers in our ICCs and Missions abroad are judged by the Head of the Mission/ Director, Cultural Centre. Comments on the work of these teachers are included in the reports on the working of the Centres sent periodically to the Council.

(f) ICCR established nine Hindi Chairs in the last two years, details of which are at 'Annexure 1-A'. ICCR is also in receipt of proposals for setting up of new Hindi Chairs in Guyana, Oman & South Africa (details in 'Annexure 1-A') which ICCR would be willing to process further based on the policy recommendations made by the Academic Advisory Committee and the guarantee of requisite additional funding.

During the last two years, ICCR has set up six Indian Cultural Centres abroad, namely, at Male (Maldives), Seoul (S. Korea), Riyadh (Saudi Arab), Sao Paulo (Brazil), The Hague (Netherlands) & Tehran (Iran), and Hindi is currently being taught in Seoul, Sao Paulo and The Hague.

While there are many proposals for opening Culture Centres abroad in various countries, for the immediate future, ICCR has decided the focus would be on Washington, USA (for which suitable property has been identified recently), Paris, France (where renovation of Govt. of India owned building is under process) and Toronto, Canada (where an India based Director has been deputed to locate a suitable building and completing other procedural formalities). Further processing of pending ICC proposals will also depend on additional funding being made available to the ICCR.