

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3298

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

HINDI IN UNO

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether any action has been taken to make Hindi as official language in the United Nations Organisation (UNO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of countries, other than India, who have extended their support to make Hindi official language of UNO;
- (d) whether the Government have set up a world organisation for this purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (c) The Government has been actively taking necessary measures for introduction of Hindi as an official language of the United Nations. In 2003, a high level committee was constituted under the chairmanship of External Affairs Minister to look into this matter and it was decided to prepare an Advocacy Paper to present the case. A formal proposal is, however, yet to be made to the United Nations as this has financial, procedural as well as legal implications. Procedurally, this would involve obtaining approval of the General Assembly to amend the rule specifying the official and working languages which would require approval of the majority (at least 97 countries) in the General Assembly. As the proposing country, India would need to provide sufficient financial resources to cover the cost of interpretation, translation, printing and duplication of all documents which could cost in excess of US \$ 14 million per year at a very conservative estimate. In addition, since recognizing any language as the official language of the UN also entails a significant increase in the expenditure of the UN necessitating an enhanced contribution by every member country, most of the members remain reluctant to support such a proposal.

(d) & (e) A World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius with effect from 11th February 2008 to promote Hindi as an international language and to institutionalize the organization of World Hindi Conference. The Secretariat has a Governing Council, and an Executive Board and is headed by a Secretary General.