

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4195
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URDU AND HINDI LANGUAGES
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is allocating funds for the promotion and development of Urdu and Hindi languages abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for this purposes during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and country-wise; and
- (c) the actual demand under the current Five Year Plan, country-wise and language-wise?

Answer

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

(a) In accordance with the Constitutional directive for development of the Hindi language, Government is allocating funds for the promotion and development of Hindi under the sub-Head "Propagation of Hindi through Missions abroad" of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The funds are not allocated country-wise but are sanctioned by the Ministry of External Affairs to our Missions / Posts abroad as special grants on receiving their specific proposals for various activities conducive to promotion of Hindi language abroad like holding Hindi Teaching classes, commemoration of Hindi Diwas and the World Hindi Day, holding seminars and conferences, distribution of Hindi Books and Hindi learning material etc. The Government also contributes to the budget of the World Hindi Secretariat set up in Mauritius in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius on 50% sharing basis. The funds allocated for promotion of Hindi abroad during last three years and the current year are as under:-

Financial Year 2006-2007: Rs. 1, 60,00,000/-

Financial Year 2007-2008 Rs. 6, 60,00,000/-

Financial Year 2008-2009 Rs. 1,00,00,000/-

Financial Year 2009-2010 Rs, 2,12,00,000/-

(b)
(i) Furthermore, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), in association with Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS), Agra, is maintaining 13 Hindi Chairs abroad. Details of expenditure in the last three years on the 13 Chairs is as follows: -

FY 2006-07 Rs. 1,74,64,473/-

FY 2007-08 Rs. 1,65,79,169/-

FY 2008-09 Rs. 2,33,17,511/-

(b)
(ii) ICCR is also engaged in bringing out a Hindi journal for circulation abroad. Council also buys Hindi and Urdu books for the libraries of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad, as well as for presentation to Universities and other organizations engaged in propagating Hindi and Urdu abroad.

(c) Funds are allocated under non-Plan expenditure on an annual basis.