

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1584
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
POPULARISATION OF SANSKRIT LANGUAGE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to popularise Sanskrit language in schools abroad, especially in countries where a large number of Indian national live;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of universities in the world who offer courses in Sanskrit to undergraduates and above students course-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has created chairs in the name of Indian scholars in those universities;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. As on January, 2015, 197 schools situated in twenty four countries where there is presence of Indian Diaspora were affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

CBSE has already implemented communicative courses in the teaching of Sanskrit at secondary level (Classes IX & X) and two courses i.e. Sanskrit Core and Sanskrit Elective at senior secondary level (Classes XI & XII). In addition to a Text Book, the CBSE has also brought out a Work Book which promotes the scientific and grammatical component in the teaching and learning of Sanskrit. It has also conducted teachers empowerment programmes and brought out support material for students and teachers.

The CBSE has taken the following steps to popularize Sanskrit language:

- i) Undertook a Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) Project to popularize the interactive approach in Sanskrit between 1999 to 2001; the benefits of which are as follows:
 - a) Students and teachers were able to communicate effectively and appropriately in real life situations.
 - b) Students were able to develop and integrate the use of the four language skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing
 - c) Students were able to develop interest in and appreciation of literature.
- ii) Developed textbooks for classes VI-XII as part of the CLT Project in Sanskrit (1999-2001) alongwith work- books and support material like Shikshan Sandarshika and Audio Cassette (Dhvani Mudrika)
- iii) Conducted about 50 teachers' training programmes and seminars across the country to orient the teachers in communicative approach to teaching Sanskrit
- iv) Directed all the schools affiliated to CBSE to celebrate Sanskrit Week from August 7 to August 14, 2014.
- v) Brought out a booklet on 'Collection of Aphorisms on Leadership from Classical Indian Literature' for the benefit of students. It can be studied throughout schooling as the nature of this booklet is perennial and general.

(c) to (f) No such information is centrally maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, 12 students from Nepal, Bhutan and United Kingdom are studying in under-graduate and post-graduate courses in Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, a Deemed to be University under this Ministry.