

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
RECRUITMENT OF DIPLOMATS
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the category-wise and country-wise number of Indian ambassadors posted abroad as on date;
- (b) the total number of posts of ambassadors lying vacant country-wise and the time since when these posts have been lying vacant and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled;
- (c) the total number of ambassadors from the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service and those who are not from Government service;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to recruit diplomats from the academia and the private sector to work in Indian Embassies abroad and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any guidelines have been prescribed for such recruitment and if so, the details thereof along with the time by when the recruitment process is likely to be initiated?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As on date, 86 Ambassadors, 28 High Commissioners and 5 Permanent Representatives in the rank of Ambassador are posted in 114 countries abroad. These Ambassadors belong to Grade I, II, III and IV of the Indian Foreign Service, non-career officers and officers from the Interpreter cadre in Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Eight posts of Ambassadors are lying vacant in the following countries:

- i. Angola – vacant since February 2014
- ii. Botswana – vacant since June 2014
- iii. Congo – vacant since April 2014
- iv. Madagascar – vacant since April 2014
- v. Mali – vacant since December 2011
- vi. South Sudan – vacant since July 2014
- vii. Syria – vacant since December 2012
- viii. Zimbabwe – vacant since July 2014

These vacancies are expected to be filled in the next few months. At present, these Missions are being handled by Charge d' Affaires (acting Ambassador).

(c) There are 111 Ambassadors from the Indian Foreign Service, 1(one) from the Indian Administrative Service. Besides this, there are five non-career Ambassadors.

(d) At present, there is no diplomat from the academia or from the private sector working in Indian embassies abroad.

(e) No.