

**12**

**COMMITTEE  
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2021-22)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2022-23)**

**TWELFTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*MARCH, 2022/CHAITRA, 1944 (Saka)*

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**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2022-23)**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 23 March, 2022**

**Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23 March, 2022**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***MARCH, 2022/CHAITRA, 1944 (Saka)***

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<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>PAGE</b>
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2021-22)		(i)
INTRODUCTION		(ii)
<b>REPORT</b>		
CHAPTER I	ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23	1
CHAPTER II	SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS	19
CHAPTER III	INDIA'S DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION	48
CHAPTER IV	OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS	103
CHAPTER V	ORGANIZATIONAL SET UP	116
CHAPTER VI	AUTONOMOUS BODIES & INSTITUTIONS	123
CHAPTER VII	FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING & RESEARCH	151
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
I	Minutes of the Sixth Sitting of the Committee held on 28.02.2022	166
II	Minutes of the Seventh Sitting of the Committee held on 21.03.2022	170
<b>ANNEXURES</b>		
Annexure –I	List of Missions/Posts abroad	172
Annexure –II	Package-wise status of construction work of Nalanda University	180
Annexure –III	Details of Training Programmes for Indian Diplomats	184
Annexure –IV	Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats	191
Annexure –V	Survey of countries publishing grand strategy documents	194

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2021-22)

### 1. Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

#### Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
6. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
7. Smt. Preneet Kaur
8. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
9. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
10. Shri P. C. Mohan
11. Smt. Queen Oja
12. Shri Ritesh Pandey
13. Dr. K. C. Patel
14. Shri N.K. Premachandran
15. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
16. Shri Soyam Babu Rao
17. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
18. Shri Rebati Tripura
19. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
20. \*Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
21. Vacant

#### Rajya Sabha

22. Shri K. J. Alphons
23. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
24. Smt. Misha Bharti
25. Shri Brijlal
26. Shri P. Chidambaram
27. Shri Swapan Dasgupta
28. Shri Prakash Javadekar
29. Shri Sanjay Raut
30. Shri Kapil Sibal
31. Shri K. Somaprasad

#### Secretariat

- |    |                 |   |                             |
|----|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri P.C.Koul   | - | Additional Secretary        |
| 2. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary             |
| 3. | Smt. Maya Lingi | - | Director                    |
| 4. | Ms. Smita Singh | - | Assistant Committee Officer |

\*Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 07 February, 2022

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Twelfth Report of the Committee on External Affairs (2021-22) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2022-23.

2. The Committee heard the views of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs at their Sixth Sitting held on 28 February, 2022.

3. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs for placing before them the material and information that the Committee desired and also appearing before the Committee for placing their considered views before them in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2022-23).

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Seventh Sitting held on 21 March, 2022.

5. The Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee held on 28 February, 2022 and 21 March, 2022 are given in Appendix-I and II to the Report.

6. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold.

**NEW DELHI**  
**21 March, 2022**  
**30 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)**

**P.P. CHAUDHARY**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Committee on External Affairs**

## CHAPTER 1

### ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) formulates and conducts India's foreign policy within the framework of our values and principles of fostering international peace and cooperation with the overall objective of meeting India's strategic aims and aspirations as well as to secure our national interests. In pursuance of its mandated objectives, the MEA headquarters in New Delhi is assisted by 196 Missions and Posts abroad; its Branch Secretariats and Passport Offices in India; and Autonomous Bodies funded by it. The Ministry is also supported by other Ministries and State Governments who also contribute to India's international engagement in consultation and coordination with MEA.

**1.2** Under the Constitution of India [Article 113 (2)], estimates of expenditure are submitted to Lok Sabha in the form of Demands for Grants. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs (Demand No. 19) was presented on 4 February, 2022.

#### **I. OVERALL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION**

**1.3** MEA's budget allocation in Budget Estimates (BE) 2021-22 was Rs. 18154.73 crore. The allocation in Revised Estimates (RE) 2021-22 is Rs. 16000 crore and the actual expenditure of the Ministry in FY 2020-21 (*upto December 2021*) was Rs.10048.73 crore. The allocation in BE 2022-23 is Rs 17250 crore, which is 4.98% less than BE 2021-22 allocation and 7.81% more than RE 2021-22 allocation. The total budgetary allocation for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) during the last five years along with the Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for the respective years including Actuals & shortfall/excess in utilization of RE is as follows:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease at RE Stage</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	14662.66	13426.00	12753.37	-1236.66

<b>2017-18</b>	14798.55	13690.00	13749.73	-1108.55
<b>2018-19</b>	15011.00	15582.00	15526.32	+571
<b>2019-20</b>	17884.78	17372.27	13413.41	-512.55
<b>2020-21</b>	17346.71	15000.00	14365.84#	-634.16
<b>2021-22</b>	18154.73	16000.00	11059.74*	-
<b>2022-23</b>	17250	-	-	-

\* Actual expenditure figure upto January, 2022

**1.4** The budgetary allocation in BE 2021-22 is 4.98% less than BE 2021-22 and 7.81% more than RE 2021-22 .On being asked about the rationale for reduction in budgetary allocation at RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 *vis-à-vis* BE 2021-22, the Ministry responded that it projected a budgetary demand of Rs. 18224.52 cr for RE 2021-22 and Rs. 20707.18 cr for BE 2022-23 to Ministry of Finance, along with detailed justifications. As per recommendations of Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices of budgetary management, Ministry continues to strive to formulate budgetary demands with greater rigor of Zero based budgeting. Therefore, unit based expenditure plans based on anticipated progress in ongoing projects, likely new initiatives, challenges being faced in individual projects etc, all form part of comprehensive consideration of budgetary demand and allocation. Budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with Heads of Division in Quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further deliberated on, in meeting chaired by Finance Secretary, as a whole of Government approach to Government's overall budgetary management. The projected demand & allocation of RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23, is thus based on exhaustive unit wise discussions with respective Divisions, careful assessments of progress in projects and realistic assessment of budgetary utilization in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. The RE 2021-22 allocation to the Ministry was Rs. 16,000 cr, i.e. 87.79 % of MEA's demand, which is the highest percentage of allocation *vis-à-vis* demand in the last 5 years. Similarly, the BE 2022-23 allocation to the Ministry was Rs. 17,250 cr, *i.e.* 83.30 % of



MEA's demand, the highest percentage of allocation *vis-à-vis* demand in the last 3 years. Consistently Ministry's RE and BE demand-allocation differential has improved indicating realistic projections and constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements by Ministry of Finance as indeed financial value principle of Zero based budgeting brings.

**1.5** The heads under which allocations were reduced at BE 2022-23 is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

<b>Heads</b>	<b>BE 2021-22</b>	<b>BE 2022-23</b>
Training	25.76	23.48
Passport & Emigration	1328.63	996.67
Entertainment Charges	299.12	93.28
ICWA	16.00	14.81
Other International Organizations	55.00	50.00
South Asian University	314.00	128.00
Nalanda International University	250.00	200.00
BIMSTEC Secretariat	25.00	17.00
Engagement with Indian diaspora	41.00	35.50
Aid to Bhutan	3004.95	2266.24
Aid to Nepal	992.00	750.00
Aid for Disaster Relief	20.00	10.00
ITEC Programme	150.00	75.00
Aid to African Countries	300.00	250.00
Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme	270.00	210.00
Aid to Afghanistan	350.00	200.00
Aid to Seychelles	160.00	14.06
Capital Outlay on Housing	350.00	300.00

**1.6** On the question about the adequacy of the allocated budget, the Ministry of External Affairs explained that it undertook an assessment of the funds requirements for various heads in the MEA budget for suitable re-appropriation of allocation within the RE 2021-22 ceiling of Rs. 16,000 cr, with identified savings being re-allocated to heads that needed enhancement, to ensure that the on-going projects, schemes and programmes were not adversely impacted. Budgetary demand and allocation is a dynamic exercise aided by regular assessment of Ministry's expectation of expenditure progress in current financial years. Instruments of re-appropriation of budget, Supplementary demands etc, allow re-prioritisation, and re-allocation of funds for full & efficient allocation of budgetary resources. Thus, allocations made to Ministry, in RE 2021-22 are a reflection of realistic assessment of our existing international commitments, expected expenditure progress and realistic assessment of requirement in BE 2022-23. The quarterly budgetary and expenditure assessment instituted by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings strengthen the useful repurposing of budgetary distribution with the priority towards Ministry's development partnership portfolio. It is Ministry's assessment, that allocated budget in RE 2021-22 would suffice our expenditure commitments in CFY. BE 2022-23 allocation, even though slightly less than BE 2021-22, still is pegged higher than RE 2021-22 and anticipated expenditure in CFY.

**1.7** While tendering evidence before the Committee on 28 February, 2022 the Foreign Secretary reiterated this position when he said as under:

“Sir, the MEA's overall Budget demand was Rs.18,224.52 crore for the RE 2021-22 and Rs.20,707.18 crore for BE 2022-23. Against the aforesaid Budget demand, the RE allocation is Rs.16,000 crore and BE allocation for the next financial year is Rs.17,250 crore. The BE allocation is, thus, 7.8 per cent higher than the RE allocation and the expected expenditure in the current financial year. The BE next year is around five per cent less than the BE of the current financial year. Nonetheless, the budgetary allocation is steady, despite the steeply constraining impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our development projects

across the globe, and, in consonance with our overall requirement of funds in the next financial year.”

**1.8** The details of the budgetary demands sought from the Ministry of Finance and the actual allocations made during the last three financial years is given below –

*(Rs. in Crores)*

<b>FY</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>	<b>RE Demand</b>	<b>RE Allocation</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
2018-19	20873.40	15011.00	19762.73	15582.00	15527.70
2019-20	19965.57	17884.78	21173.50	17372.27	17272.05
2020-21	20873.40	17346.71	18256.59	15000.00	10790.47
2021-22	22888.73	18154.73	18224.52	16000.00	11059.74

\* Expenditure up to January 2022

**1.9** The following table depicts details of allocations sought at supplementary Demands/Additional Demands during the year 2021-22 and the actual allocations given by the Ministry of Finance -

*(Rs. in Crores)*

<b>Supplementary 2021-22</b>	<b>Demand</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
First Supplementary	370.00	370.00
Second Supplementary	0.02	0.02
Third Supplementary	0.00	0.00

**1.10** The percentage of MEA’s budget allocation during 2022-23, as a percentage of the overall Gol budget is 0.44 %. The table illustrates the percentage of percentage of MEA’s budget allocation, as a percentage of the overall Gol budget for the past four years.

*(Rs. in Crore)*

	<b>MEA Budget</b>	<b>Overall GOI Budget</b>	<b>%</b>
BE 2018-19	15011.00	2442213.00	<b>0.61 %</b>

BE 2019-20	17884.78	2786349	<b>0.64%</b>
BE 2020-21	17346.71	3042230.00	<b>0.57%</b>
BE 2021-22	18154.73	3483235.63	<b>0.52%</b>
BE 2022-23	17250.00	3944908	<b>0.44%</b>

**1.11** When asked about the reasons for reduction of the budgetary allocations as a proportion of the Government's overall budget, the Ministry stated that budgetary demand and allocation is a dynamic exercise aided by regular assessment of Ministry's expectation of expenditure progress in current financial years. Each GoI Ministry makes demands for grants based on its own requirements and allocations are provided to them by the Ministry of Finance as per its assessment. The demands and allocations of various GoI Ministries may not be comparable as each Ministry's requirements would be based on their own on-going and planned programmes along with the overall domestic priorities of the Government. This assumes special significance in the backdrop of the unprecedented scale of public health emergency such as Covid 19. However, it may be noted that in absolute terms, MEA's budget has increased from Rs. 14,798 crores at BE 2017-18 to Rs. 17,250 crores at BE 2022-23. This denotes an increase of over 16% in the last 5 years. Further, the gap between Ministry's demand and allocation of budget has been decreasing over the year. Our RE demand was met to the tune of 87.79% and BE 2022-23 demand to the extent of 83%. This is the highest percentage of allocation vis-a-vis demand in the last three years. Consistently, Ministry's RE and BE demand allocation differential has narrowed indicative of realistic projections and the value of Zero based budgeting in our budgetary assessments.

**1.12** Speaking on this aspect during evidence on 28 February, 2022, the Foreign Secretary said:

"The Hon. Committee has been underlining the need for greater budgetary allocation to MEA underscoring the decreased share of MEA's allocation in the overall GoI's Budget. With the allocation of Rs.17,250 crore for the BE 2022-23, the MEA's share would form 0.44 per cent of the overall GoI Budget. While as per the hon. Committee's guidance, we highlight the decreasing share of MEA for seeking adequate funds from the Ministry of Finance, we do so keeping in mind

the whole of Government's approach towards budgetary assessment, including domestic priorities. In the last 10 years, the Ministry has utilized over 98 per cent of the allocation made at the RE stage. This indicates that the budgetary allocations sought and made to the Ministry has sufficed the requirements of our international commitment and various schemes.”

**1.13** To the Committee's specific query about the sufficiency of the allocation made for completion of all Schemes/ projects/activities that are proposed during the financial year, the Ministry replied that it projected a budgetary demand of Rs. 20707.18 cr for BE 2022-23 to Ministry of Finance, along with detailed justifications. The basis of these demands was explained in detail during discussions with Secretary (Expenditure) in October 2021. Ministry has been allocated Rs 17,250 crores in BE 2022-23 by Ministry of Finance, i.e. 83.30 % of MEA's demand. In terms of BE demand-allocation differential, this is the most favorable ratio for the Ministry in last three years.

**1.14** In their previous Demands for Grants Reports, the Committee have had strongly recommended that the Ministry should develop a well-defined and focused budgetary planning process so as to ensure that allocations sought are arrived at keeping in view achievable plans and projects and the absorption capacity of various units under the Ministry. The Ministry was further urged to consider the concept of Zero Based budgeting while drawing up their future projects. Enumerating the specific steps taken to develop a focused and well- defined budgetary planning process, the Ministry stated that the overarching principle of Zero-based budgeting guides Ministry's assessment of budgetary demand assessment and its dynamic re-purposing during any Financial Year. This has also been consistent guidance of Hon'ble Standing Committee. Further, as a part of whole of Government approach and changing paradigm of budgetary resource consideration, the Government's and Ministry's approach in this regard Outcome-centric rather than Outlay-centric. Hence, allocations for Aid heads are made after undertaking a realistic spending assessment based on project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress for on-going projects, schemes and programmes; and

based on project implementation timelines and cost estimates for planned projects, schemes and programmes.

**1.15** The Ministry further added that it has developed a rigorous mechanism of Quarterly Budget Management & expenditure review Meetings, which is chaired by Foreign Secretary. These budget management meetings are detailed exercise for head-wise evaluation of projects and evolving needs under various heads of Technical & Economic Cooperation as well as on the Non-Scheme head. For ongoing projects under the aid programs, the budgetary requirements are gauged based on inputs from the primary Divisions/Spending units which are collated and compared with the past utilization, work progress and pace of expenditure of the project. Aided by these budget management meetings as well as deliberations with various spending units at the RE and BE, a realistic budgetary estimates is drawn by the Ministry. For new projects, budgetary provisions are made as per estimates determined by project implementation timelines and cost estimates in their Detailed Project Reports. Allocations are then made to the extent of funds available within the overall budgetary provision made by Ministry of Finance. The selection of the projects to be undertaken under the Aid heads is an administrative decision which is taken by the Territorial Divisions and Development Partnership Administration Division in view of the political relations with the respective countries.

**1.16** The Committee were too keen to know whether the Ministry has taken into account the idea of Zero Based budgeting while drawing up budgetary demands for FY 2022-23. IN response, the Ministry stated that the overarching principle of zero-based budgeting guides the continuous evaluation and assessment of budgetary allocation as against funds utilization in Ministry's budget management. The result of sharper budgetary planning is reflected in RE and BE demand vs. allocation ratio being the most favourable in last many years, with RE 2021-22 (88% of demand) and BE 2022-23 (83% of demand). The Ministry will make more efforts in this direction to realize credible budgetary demands justified by past efficient utilization of funds and objective assessment of anticipated expenditures based on implementation progress. Ministry's

endeavour would be to minimize the gap between demand vs. allocation of budgetary allocation based on credible assessment and backed by efficient utilization of allocated resources. It is in consonance with Zero-based budgeting, that no head including Scheme or Non-Scheme heads are given fixed or rigid budgetary resource allocation/management, but, each head is assessed for respective demands considering a base of Zero.

**1.17** When asked about steps that are proposed to be taken by the Ministry to further streamline its budgetary planning process, the Ministry replied that as per recommendations of Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices of budgetary management, Ministry continues to strive to formulate budgetary demands with greater rigor of Zero based budgeting. Budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with Heads of Division in Quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further deliberated on, in meeting chaired by Finance Secretary, as a whole of Government approach to Government's overall budgetary management. The Ministry undertakes a detailed and careful assessment of funds requirements for the various heads in the MEA budget, in consultation with concerned Divisions and Spending Units, as per the existing funds utilization status in the concerned budget head; stage of implementation and progress of on-going projects, schemes and programmes; and anticipated expenditure as per the implementation schedules of on-going initiatives as well as new planned initiatives which are to begin within the budgetary cycle under consideration.

**1.18** When asked whether the issue of reduced allocation of funds as compared to the requirements of funds over the years has been vigorously taken up with the Ministry of Finance at various levels, the Ministry stated that Over the years, the issue of provision of adequate allocation of funds has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance at various levels. Ministry has been making concerted efforts to engage with the Ministry of Finance at the level of Minister, Secretary and Financial Advisor. The response of the Ministry of Finance has been positive and constructive, as indicated by the decreasing gap between Ministry's demand and allocation of funds, thereby indicating constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements. A perusal of last 3 years budgetary cycle

reveals additional allocation of funds at Supplementary stages, reflective of constructive engagement of Ministry with Ministry of Finance.

**1.19 The Committee observe that MEA's budgetary allocation for FY 2022-23 is Rs. 17, 250 crore which is 4.98% less than BE 2021-22 allocation and 7.81% more than RE 2021-22 allocation. The Committee also observe that despite an increase in the overall budget allocation of the Government of India, the allocation made to MEA in percentage terms has witnessed a downward turn during the last four years and during 2022-23 it is only 0.44 % of the Government of India's overall Budget.**

The Committee do not find such allocation in consonance with the country's rising aspirations and growing global stature. The Committee are rather dismayed by the fact that the budgetary allocation made to MEA at the BE stage is lowest in both absolute as well as relative terms. In Committee's view in connection with India's rising global profile, engagement and footprint, the allocations made to MEA are evidently insufficient. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry that the issue of provisioning of adequate funds has been vigorously taken up with the Ministry of Finance at various levels but with adverse results. The Committee hope that with the subsiding of the Covid Pandemic, regular activities of the Ministry will resume and more funds will be needed to pace up the delayed projects and exchanges. The Committee, therefore, would like that the allocations made to MEA should be increased substantially and be brought at least at the level of one per cent of Gol's overall Budget every year. The Committee, strongly urge the Ministry to make a compelling case for enhanced allocation at the RE stage and also continue its constructive engagement with the Ministry of Finance for the same.

*(Recommendation No.1)*

**1.20 While examining the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs, the mismatch between the budgetary demand and actual allocations has been an issue that has drawn considerable attention of the Committee. The Committee have noted that the RE 2021-22 allocation of Rs. 16,000 crore is 87.79 % of MEA's**



demand and BE 2022-23 allocation of 17,250 crore is 83.30 % of MEA's demand. The Ministry's assertion that Ministry's RE and BE demand-allocation differential has reduced indicating realistic projections and constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements by Ministry of Finance as indeed financial value principle of Zero Based Budgeting brings. In terms of numbers, the reduction in the gap has been generous. However, at a substantive level it appears that the improvement is due to lower demand sought by MEA and not better allocation given by the Government. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Ministry to make projections based on India's widening and deepening engagement with the world as adequate finances only will allow the Ministry to perform optimally in this regard.

*(Recommendation No.2)*

1.21 The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry has incorporated the underlying principles of Zero Based Budgeting in their budgetary process. The Ministry has stated that in consonance with Zero-Based Budgeting, that no head both in Scheme or Non-Scheme heads are given fixed or rigid budgetary resource allocation/management, but, each head is assessed for respective demands considering a base of Zero. Moreover, allocations for Aid heads are made after undertaking a realistic spending assessment based on project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress for on-going projects, schemes and programmes; and based on project implementation timelines and cost estimates for planned projects, schemes and programmes.

The availability of requisite funds is critical for effective and smooth functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs that has been mandated with the task of conducting India's foreign policy. It is, therefore, imperative to have a meticulous budgetary exercise so that allocations are sought on the basis of realistic assessment and valid justifications. With an objective of further streamlining of the budgetary process, the Ministry should continue making efforts to realize credible budgetary demands justified by past efficient utilization of funds and objective assessment of anticipated expenditures based on

implementation progress. Good budgetary process needs to be backed by constructive engagement with the Ministry of Finance. The Committee would recommend that the Ministry should strongly reach out to the Ministry of Finance for better appreciation of their fund requirements.

*(Recommendation No.3)*

## II. REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE

1.22 The details of utilization of quarterly allocations during the last three years -

*(Rs. in Crore)*

2019-20	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Total
Allocation	3994.26	3994.26	3994.26	5902.00	17884.78
Utilization	4353.59	5623.33	3436.49	1138.54	14551.95

2020-21	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Total
Allocation	3874.09	3874.09	3874.09	5724.67	17346.71
Utilization	3586.43	3239.01	3965.03	3575.37	10790.47

2021-22	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Total
Allocation	4054.54	4054.55	4054.55	5991.09	18154.73
Utilization	2654.70	4017.85	3375.88	0.00	10059.74

\*up to January 2022

1.23 When asked about measures of economy that have been followed in budget utilization over the past few years, the Ministry replied that all instructions contained in various Circulars of Ministry of Finance towards economy measures, rationalization of expenditure, etc., are scrupulously followed by the Ministry. The past 2 years being unusual given COVID related lockdowns and Cash Management guidelines in place in consonance with country's fightback to COVID, Ministry's efforts have been to keep establishment expenses to bare essentials. Hence visits continue to be bare minimum. COVID restrictions afforded Ministry to improvise opportunities technologically and go

virtual. A significant number of Bilateral Working Groups, Ministerial meetings including Virtual Summits and even project management committees were held virtually sustaining momentum of our diplomatic engagement despite COVID challenge. This also led to rationalization of expenditure involved in physical meetings and gatherings. Further replacement of official vehicles was deferred, except against condemned ones, which was critically reviewed and concurred with the approval of Ministry of Finance. Creation of posts is avoided, and where functionally necessary, is done with the approval of Ministry of Finance. All expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly expenditure review meetings.

**1.24** Enumerating the steps taken/being taken by the Ministry for balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year during this period year wise and the outcome thereof, the Ministry stated that in 2021-22, it has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter, to the extent possible. Cumulative expenditure in the first three quarters has been 14%, 37% and 55% of the BE 2021-22. The quarterly expenditure by the Ministry in FY 2021-22 was in consonance with Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, placing a 20% ceiling on Q2 expenditure and assessment of pace of progress. End-December expenditure figure is over 63% of RE 2021-22, thus complying with revised expenditure guidelines for last quarter issued in January 2022.

**1.25** Elaborating on the expenditure pattern of MEA during the last fiscals, the Foreign Secretary during oral evidence on 28.02.2022 stated:

“The Ministry has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter with cumulative expenditure in the first three quarters being 14, 37 and 55 per cent of BE 2021-22. This is in consonance with the cash management guidelines of the Ministry of Finance placing a 20 per cent ceiling on Q-2 expenditure. With the relaxation given by the Ministry of Finance on 33 per cent

ceiling for Q-4, the fourth quarter, our expectation is for more efficient and complete utilization of the RE allocation of Rs.16,000 crore. A perusal of the last three financial years reveals that the quarterly pace of expenditure has been 26 per cent in Q-1, 50 per cent in Q-2, 71 per cent in Q-3 and 98 per cent in Q-4.

We are confident that due to the evenly paced expenditure and re-appropriation tools, we will fully and judiciously utilize the budget allocation. The Ministry has effectively utilized budgetary management tools of supplementary grants and re-appropriation for enhancing allocations under various Heads such as UNO, Aid to Bangladesh, Aid to Myanmar, Aid to Maldives, Nalanda University, Aid to LAC, Grant to RIS, etc. This dynamic repurposing of available budgetary resources affords us the space for freeing up of resources from Heads with under spending and placing them at the disposal of efficient spenders.”

**1.26** The RE 2021-22 allocation was Rs. 16000 crore and the actual expenditure up to January 2022 is Rs. 11059.74 crore. When asked about the anticipated expenditure by 31 March 2022, the Ministry replied that its expenditure of Rs. 11059.74 crore till end January 2022 against RE 2021-22 allocation of Rs.16000 crore is 69.12% of the RE allocation. The remaining allocation of Rs. 4940.26 crore would be utilized as per the estimated expenditure of various Divisions and Spending Units. Given Ministry's track record of budgetary utilization of over 95% in the last many years, Ministry is confident of optimum fund utilization. Ministry of Finance *vide* its OM dated 19.01.2022 has issued revised guidelines relaxing extant expenditure ceiling of 33% in the last quarter and 15% in the month of March, for the Current Financial Year. In view of this relaxation, Ministry will strive to effectively utilize its RE 2021-22 allocation of Rs. 16,000 crore.

**1.27** In response to the specific query by the Committee whether there exists any mechanism to ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the year. In a written reply, the Ministry submitted that all expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial

year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly budget management & expenditure review meetings. In these meetings the expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed and the importance of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year is emphasized & monitored. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of majority of the Ministry's spending being in foreign countries, where diverse local conditions, inter-alia including geological, security, administrative, legal & economic ecosystems and varying project development and implementation schedules posing significant challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle. Ministry's budgetary & expenditure management, thus is unlike any other Ministry in Government, with global diversity of various ecosystems, in which our projects are executed & expenditure managed.

**1.28** In pursuance of the Committee's Recommendation on improving financial management and spending pattern of the Ministry to avoid last quarter expenditure beyond the 33% ceiling and the 15% expenditure ceiling for March, the Ministry had submitted that Quarterly Budget Management Meetings were instituted. Elaborating upon the mechanism and agenda of these Meetings, the Ministry stated that Quarterly Budget Management Meetings are chaired by Foreign Secretary. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by the Financial Advisor in consultation with Divisional Heads, including through quarterly expenditure review meetings. During the quarterly expenditure review meetings, the expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed, and the importance of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year is emphasized. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of a majority of the spending being in foreign countries where diverse local conditions and varying project development and implementation schedules pose a challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle. All expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial

progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies.

**1.29** On the Committee's further query about the utility as well as challenges faced by these newly instituted Meetings, the Ministry stated that the mechanism of quarterly expenditure review meetings has been very effective in ensuring proper utilization of funds during each quarter. With Foreign Secretary himself chairing the meetings, it affords supervision and review not only of expenditure management but also project execution at the highest level in Ministry. Effectiveness of this mechanism is evident from Ministry's total budget utilization annually being around 98% over the past 5 years.

**1.30** The Ministry had also stated that it is planning to link IMAS 2.0 with Public Finance Management System (PFMS) to ensure seamless, real time reporting and monitoring of financial data. Updating the Committee about the status of their linkage, the Ministry stated that IMAS 2.0 was rolled out in the Ministry of External Affairs with effect from 05 April 2021. As on date, a total of 75 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have already been rolled over to IMAS 2.0 and the roll out of the remaining Mission/Posts is under process on priority. After all the Indian Missions/Posts are rolled over to IMAS 2.0, it will be integrated with the PFMS System.

**1.31** The Committee wanted to be updated about the progress made with regard to carrying out a cross-country analysis of budgetary allocation made to Departments/Ministries responsible for conducting foreign policies of important countries across the globe. The Ministry responded that the Report on the cross-Ministry and cross-country comparative study of budgetary allocations of Ministries/Departments with the mandate of managing foreign affairs, being prepared by Research and Information System for Economic Development (RIS), is in the final stages of its completion. As submitted earlier in the 7th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on the Action Taken by Government, a comprehensive assessment of the preliminary report was undertaken in the Ministry. During this exercise, it was noted that the preliminary Report had included limited number of

countries and Ministries for its comparative analysis. Therefore, RIS was requested to expand the mandate of the study to include more number of countries (representing a good mix of developed and emerging economies) and more number of Ministries within the Government of India (representing a cross section of key/ big and similarly placed Ministries) for a more accurate comparative analysis. As the Report is in its final stages, Ministry is confident of achieving its stated target of completion of the Report in the current financial year.

**1.32** Apprising the Committee about the current status of the cross country study, the representative of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following submission:

“Sir, the hon. Committee has stated for the last few years for this study. We had commissioned it. So, earlier a preliminary study was submitted in 2019. Since then, in 2021, we have reviewed the mandate of that study in the sense that we have included more number of countries. We have included more Departments of the Government of India. It is in final stages of completion as Foreign Secretary stated in his remarks. As committed to the hon. Committee, we expect to commission it by end of this financial year. It is a very useful study which the Committee would like to peruse and advise us on that.”

**1.33** The Committee are aware that the past two years have been unusual due to the COVID-19 Pandemic related disruptions across the globe. Notwithstanding this fact, the Ministry of External Affairs has been an effective spender and a perusal of their quarterly expenditure during the last three financial years are a testimony to it. During the FY 2021-22, in consonance with the Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, the cumulative quarterly expenditure has been 14 %, 37% and 55%. The Committee note that regular monitoring of expenditure by the designated mechanism has been a catalyst in ensuring smooth and even pace of expenditure. The Committee also note that all instructions contained in various Circulars of the Ministry of Finance towards economy measures, rationalization of expenditure, etc., are being scrupulously followed by the Ministry. The Committee are optimistic that the Ministry will continue making

efforts to ensure optimum and even pace of expenditure in the upcoming year. The Ministry should showcase its prudent and effective utilization pattern as a strong basis for seeking enhanced allocations from the Ministry of Finance during both RE as well as BE stages.

*(Recommendation No.4)*

1.34 Over the past five years, the Committee have been recommending that the Ministry should carry out cross-Ministry as well as cross-country (of Ministries/Departments with the mandate of managing foreign affairs) comparative analysis of budgetary allocations. During the last Demands for Grants Report, the Ministry was asked to submit the findings of the study within three months. Since 2019, the Ministry has been furnishing the same reply that the preliminary report of the study conducted by Research and Information System for Economic Development (RIS) is under examination. Further, this year, the Ministry has submitted that the RIS has been requested to expand the mandate of the study to include more number of countries and more number of Ministries within the Government of India for a more accurate comparative analysis and the Report is in its final stages and will be completed in this financial year.

The Committee are disappointed by the casual approach of the Ministry on such a significant matter. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the comparative study must be finalized in the current financial year, without fail. The Committee also desire that the findings of this study should be used to strengthen the case for making more budgetary demands so that Indian foreign policy is carried out in alignment with its expanding mandate and activities.

*(Recommendation No. 5)*



**CHAPTER 2**  
**SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS**

The allocation to major heads for the year 2022-23 is given below:

(In ₹ Crore)

<b>Major Head</b>	<b>Items included</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
<b>Secretariat General Services</b>	Ministry's Secretariat expenses, expenses on hostels and residential complexes, foreign and domestic travel expenses, Public Diplomacy and Press and Media, States Facilitation and Knowledge Support Relations, Trade & Investment Promotion, G 20 India Presidency Summit etc	<b>541.79</b>
<b>External Affairs</b>	Foreign Service Training Institute, Embassies and Missions/ Posts abroad, Central Passport Organisation and Protector, Special Diplomatic Expenditure, Protector General of Emigrant, welfare of overseas Indians, hospitality to dignitaries, contributions to UNO and	<b>9248. 18</b>

	other international organisations, grants to autonomous bodies and institutions, international cooperation, engagement with Indian Diaspora etc.	
<b>Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries</b>	India's aid and assistance programmes	<b>6043.77</b>
<b>Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing</b>	Acquisition, construction and major renovation of GOI-owned Chanceries and residential properties abroad and offices in India	<b>410.00</b>
<b>Advances to Foreign Governments</b>		<b>706.23</b>
<b>Total BE for FY 2022-23</b>		<b>17250.00</b>

## **I. Embassies and Missions**

**2.2** This minor head provides for expenditure on India's representation abroad and functioning of Missions/Posts abroad. An outlay of Rs. 2861.06 crore was allocated during BE 2021-22 and it was increased to Rs. 3397.99 crore at the RE stage. A provision of Rs. 3769.06 crore has been provisioned during BE 2022-23. Providing the reason for which increased allocation was/have been made at RE 2021-22 as well as BE for 2022-23, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that increased allocation at RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 has been made mainly on account of the opening 3 new Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic; increase under the Salaries head and Medical Treatment due to increase in medical expenses in view of Covid 19, factoring in inflation and various aspects having inflationary impact on establishment expenses of our Embassies/Posts.

**2.3** The details of the projections made by the Ministry, allocations made and actual expenditures incurred under the Head 'Embassies and Missions' during the past three years are as follows –

(Rs. In Crores)

Financial Year	Projection		Allocation		Actual Expenditure
	BE	RE	BE	RE	
2018-19	2800.01	3053.62	2701.00	2678.81	2737.69
2019-20	3243.22	3060.07	2748.06	2910.56	2905.24
2020-21	3247.94	3103.69	2994.06	2861.06	2797.14
2021-22	3539.68	3285.64	3240.07	3397.99	2604.38*

\*upto January 2022

**2.4** The Committee wanted to know whether in the opinion of the Ministry, the available funds are adequate for smooth functioning of various Embassies and Missions abroad after the devaluation of Rupees *vis-à-vis* USD. In a written reply, the Ministry submitted that adequate funds are provided for the smooth functioning of Missions and Posts abroad after duly taking into account various factors having inflationary/deflationary impact on Embassies establishment expenses, including currency exchange rates.

**2.5** Given the budgetary constraints being endured by the Ministry, when asked the Ministry about the steps have been taken to rationalize the working and expenditure of Indian Missions/Posts abroad. In a written reply, the Ministry submitted that Budget allocation for Indian Missions and Posts abroad is a large-scale and comprehensive exercise wherein fund demands from over 200 Missions and Posts are compiled, assessed and accommodated within the Ministry's overall budgetary constraints. Allocation to each Mission/Post is distributed in more than 10 sub-heads, each of which requires assessment and reconciliation individually, i.e. over 2000 sub-heads to be catered to. Given the scale of the exercise, the Ministry examines the progressive expenditure achieved till November each year by each Mission/Post, and adequate

allocations are made based on realistic assessment of requirements of Mission, pace of expenditure and respective utilization capacities.

**2.6** On being asked, the Ministry enumerated the criteria for determining the decision for establishment of Embassies/Missions abroad. In recent years, there has been visible enhancement in India's standing as a global power with advances in economic, scientific and technological arenas. There is widespread recognition of India as an emerging power and economy, growing interest from across the world in engaging with India, expansion of India's diplomatic outreach manifesting in India taking the lead in regional groupings, increase in number of high-level exchanges, bilateral agreements and MoUs signed, growth in economic and developmental cooperation through projects, and initiatives led by India on the international stage such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India aspires to be a permanent member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and to achieve that objective, our presence in all UN member countries is essential so as to coordinate our efforts in their Foreign Office. Like India which is a non-permanent member of UNSC currently, all other countries also become non-permanent members of UNSC every two years, and thus our presence in their capitals help us to achieve our objective of UNSC permanent seat.

The broad foreign policy vision of the Government is to maximize India's presence abroad in the most optimal manner. The objective of our foreign policy is also to build a conducive environment for India's growth and development through partnerships with friendly countries. Countries are identified for opening of resident Indian Missions on the basis of potential for deepening strategic cooperation, strong potential for bilateral trade and investment, strong Diaspora presence, bolster political outreach in multilateral for a, pending commitments from the point of view of reciprocity, and for signaling India's commitment to stepping up of diplomatic engagement with important countries/regions etc.

**2.7** A region-wise list of Missions/Posts abroad is attached under **Annexure-I**.

**2.8** On being asked about the states in which there is no resident Missions, the Ministry informed that out of 193 UN member countries (including India), India doesn't have resident Missions in 48 countries. India has diplomatic engagements with these countries through concurrent accreditation arrangements. The scope and depth of bilateral relations with these countries are regularly reviewed and Missions are opened in these countries according to need.

**2.9** The Committee further enquired about the reasons for not having resident Missions in these countries. The Ministry submitted that the scope and depth of bilateral relations with these 48 countries are regularly reviewed and Missions are opened in these countries according to need. Government has identified 11 countries to open resident missions and is at initial stages of process.

**2.10** In their previous DFG Reports, the Committee have been urging that centralized monitoring mechanism should be established to ensure an efficient and timely delivery of services in the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. In response, the Ministry had stated that Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) portal is being revamped and the newly modified portal was expected to be launched soon. The PEMS 2.0 (Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System) portal, a centralized online monitoring mechanism to evaluate the functioning of our Missions/Posts abroad on an annual basis, was launched in 2021. The monitoring is being done through evaluation of the responses of the Missions/Posts of a comprehensive questionnaire that includes questions related to political, economic, cultural, administrative and financial processes and consular responsibilities. The objective of the PEMS is not punitive but recommendatory in nature to improve the performance of Missions/Posts over time.

**2.11** The Ministry also informed that Provisional evaluation has been completed in respect of almost all the 193 Missions/Posts and final evaluation has also been done in respect of more than 90% of these Missions//Posts. Remedial actions where necessary have been suggested to the concerned Missions/Posts. The action taken by the Missions/Posts on the suggested actions is also being monitored. As far as accessibility of the information uploaded on the portal is concerned, it is limited to the concerned Mission/Post and the Ministry.

**2.12** The Committee further wanted to know about the findings of the evaluation and subsequent remedial actions. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that most of the Missions/Posts have performed well on the PEMS 2.0 portal. The findings of evaluation done through PEMS 2.0 Portal vary from Mission to Mission. A few Missions were lagging in housekeeping areas like weeding out of obsolete files, consular documents etc. Some had not sent requisite returns timely to the Ministry while others could not hold Buyer-Seller Meets, trade meetings etc. owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Remedial actions, where necessary, have been suggested to the concerned Mission/Posts and many Missions/Posts have reverted back confirming that they have taken the remedial action as desired. The Ministry continues to regularly follow up on the actions being taken by each Mission.

**2.13** Regarding the question about the existence of a centralized mechanism at Headquarters to keep a check on the activities and to ensure efficient and fast delivery of services by various Indian Missions/Posts, the Ministry stated that Yes, there exists PEMS 2.0 (Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System) portal, a centralized online monitoring mechanism to evaluate the functioning of our Missions/Posts abroad on an annual basis. It was launched in 2021. The monitoring is being done through evaluation of the responses of the Missions/Posts of a comprehensive questionnaire that includes questions related to political, economic, cultural, administrative and financial processes and consular responsibilities.

**2.14** The Committee note that the budgetary sub-head 'Embassies and Missions' which caters to expenditure on India's representation abroad and functioning of Missions/Posts abroad, have witnessed an upward trend. An allocation of Rs. 2861.06 crore was provisioned during BE 2021-22, which was increased to Rs. 3397.99 crore during RE 2021-22 and further to Rs Rs. 3769.06 crore during BE 2022-23. As per the Ministry, the enhanced allocation has been provided mainly for opening of 3 new Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic; increase under the Salaries head and Medical Treatment due to increase in medical expenses in view of Covid 19. The Committee note that out of 193 UN Member countries (including India), India doesn't have resident

Missions in 48 countries. The Ministry has informed that it has identified 11 countries where resident Missions can be set up, after obtaining approval from the Cabinet.

The Committee note that the budget allocation for Indian Missions and Posts abroad is a large-scale and comprehensive exercise, wherein fund demands from over 200 Missions and Posts are compiled, assessed and accommodated within the Ministry's overall budgetary constraints. Efforts made by the Ministry for rationalizing the working and expenditure of Indian Missions/Posts are laudable. India aspires to be a permanent member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and to achieve this objective, our presence in all UN member countries is crucial so as to coordinate our efforts with their Foreign Offices. The Committee, therefore, emphasize the need for having Resident Missions in all UN member countries. The Ministry should chalk out a roadmap for setting up of Indian Missions/Posts in the remaining 48 countries in a timely manner. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the steps taken and progress made in this regard.

*(Recommendation No.6)*

**2.15** Recognizing the significance of evaluation and monitoring in improvement of the overall functioning of the various Mission/Posts abroad, the Committee had persistently called up on the Ministry to expedite the launching of Revamped (Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System) Portal. The Committee are satisfied to learn that PEMS 2.0 portal, a centralized online monitoring mechanism to evaluate the functioning of our Missions/Posts abroad on an annual basis, was launched in 2021. The Ministry has submitted that the monitoring is being done through evaluation of the responses of the Missions/Posts of a comprehensive questionnaire that includes questions related to political, economic, cultural, administrative and financial processes and consular responsibilities. It is discerned that provisional evaluation has been completed in respect of almost all the 193 Missions/Posts and final evaluation has also been done in respect of more than 90% of these Missions//Posts. The findings of evaluation done through PEMS 2.0 Portal vary from Mission to

**Missions and remedial measures, where necessary have been suggested. While appreciating the revamped monitoring mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of Mission/Posts abroad, the Committee desire that the Ministry should continue to regularly follow up on the actions being taken by each Mission.**

***(Recommendation No.7)***

## **II. Passport and Emigration**

**2.16** The sub-head 'Passport and Emigration' caters to expenditure on Passport Offices, printing of travel documents, lease/purchase of passport printers, payments to State Governments and Union Territories for verifications, expenses of pre-departure orientation and skill upgradation of emigrant workers, etc. The allocation during BE 2021-22 was Rs. 1328.63 crore, which was decreased to Rs. 1056.28 crore at the RE stage. The budgetary allocation for BE 2022-23 has been decreased to Rs. 996.67 crore. Justifying the reduced allocations under this minor head, the Ministry stated that the decreased allocation at RE 2021-22 has been made primarily due to lesser anticipated expenditure under printing and procurement of travel documents, postal and freight charges for travel documents and service charges for Passport Seva Projects. Similarly, at BE 2022-23 lesser funds have been provisioned for printing and procurement of travel documents, postal and freight charges for travel documents and service charges for Passport Seva Projects as the bills pertaining to these services are raised with a time lag. If so required, adequate budgetary enhancements would be considered by the Ministry under each of aforesaid sub-heads at Supplementary stage, RE stage etc, keeping in view realistic assessment of expenditure progress and optimization & efficient utilization of Ministry's total budgetary resource allocation.

**2.17** The Passport Seva Programme (PSP), a Mission Mode Project, is being implemented in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the Service Provider. It has completed more than 09 years of its successful operation since it went 'Live' on 12 June 2012. There has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country with the implementation of the PSP and continuous efforts being made by the Ministry. Quality service is being



provided to the people by the PSKs, established with good amenities across the country in a PPP mode. Under this system, the applicants are required to apply for their passports online, upload relevant documents, make the payment online through debit/credit card or State Bank of India (SBI) net banking/ SBI Challan, schedule an appointment and then visit the designated PSK/ POPSK.

**2.18** As regards Passport Seva Portal, the Foreign Secretary during the course of oral evidence submitted:

“I would first like to brief the Hon’ble Committee on the Passport Seva Project. This is one of the largest citizen-centric projects under the National Governance Plan. Passport Seva Project is embarking on Version 2.0 with the selection of the new Service Provider. The Version 2.0 will focus on technology adaptation and up-gradation through use of biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-bot, Auto response, natural language processing and Cloud Enablement. Starting in 2023, the Government is planning to issue e-Passports to citizens. This will be a combined paper and electronic passport with a RFID chip and antenna embedded as an inlay in the back cover. The main benefit of e-Passport is its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of its data. E-Passports would increase the level of confidence in Indian passports and facilitate the ease of travel for Indian citizens, making their interface with immigration authorities much smoother.”

**2.19** Elaborating upon the measures have been taken to make quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country during 2021-22, the Ministry stated that as regards quantitative improvements, 02 POPSKs have been added into the Passport Seva Programme (PSP) during 2021-22 raising the total number of POPSKs to 428 to provide greater reach to the citizens at their doorsteps for convenience and ease of Passport related services. In addition, the Passport Seva Programme has been extended to Indian Missions/Posts abroad in order to provide better and smoother service delivery experience to Indian Diaspora living abroad. As on date, 177 Indian Missions/Posts have been integrated into PSP and integration in several other Missions/Posts is in progress.

**2.20** As regards qualitative improvements, following enhancements have been undertaken to improve the service levels:

- Enhancement in Passport booklet design and quality.
- Centralized granting (approval) facility for better resource management ensuring greater productivity.
- More numbers of District Police Headquarters (DPHq) have been integrated into PSP system making a total of 807 DPHq for expeditious online submission of PVRs.
- Application enhancements have been done to address appointments based on Covid-19 protocols.
- SMS and emails are sent to applicants based on Covid-19 protocols for appointment booking.
- Cross granting of applications to address shortage of manpower at a particular PSK/POPSK due to Covid-19.
- Remote management of PSP platform and security during the ongoing pandemic.
- Relaxation in number of rescheduling of appointments booked by applicants due to Covid.
- Integration of Passport Appeal process for addressing Citizen grievances.
- Recognizing the need to continually improve the quality of Government to Citizen (G2C) services and the mantra of Good Governance via IT and digital media, the Passport Seva Programme V2.0 would be embarking on technology upgrade with the use of Biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-Bot, Auto-response, Natural Language Processing, Cloud Enablement. The issuance of e-Passports for enhanced customer satisfaction, increased security and next level of citizen experience will also be unveiled in the upgraded PSP-V 2.0.
- For children adopted under Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956, earlier it was mandatory to produce court order in all cases. However, now the requirement of court order is limited to cases when adoption is done only under section 9(4) of Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956.

- Copy of Passbook of IDFC First Bank has been added to the list of bank Id proofs accepted as Proof of address for Passports.
- Instructions were given to all Passport Issuing Authorities for speedy disposal of passport applications meant for Haj Pilgrims.

**2.21** The service delivery of passports in terms of 'Normal' and 'Tatkaal' passports to applicants is given below:

<b>Type of Passport</b>	<b>2020 (in Days)</b>	<b>2021 (in Days)</b>
Normal (excluding PV time)	11	15*
Tatkaal (excluding PV time)	2	1
Average Police Verification Time	21	18

\* The average time to issue passport increased by few days due to impact of Covid-19. The shortage of Verification and Granting officer at PSK due to Covid-19 resulted in expeditious clearance of applications.

**2.22** The Committee wanted to know whether there exists any database, containing details of passports issued to Indian citizens, the Ministry stated that a central database containing details of passports is maintained by the Ministry, which is called Passport Related Information Data Exchange (PRIDE).

**2.23** On the Committee's question regarding Grievance Redressal Mechanism related to passport services, the Ministry stated that a dedicated Public Grievance Redressal Cell has been established in the PSP Division under the supervision of the Joint Secretary (PSP) and Chief Passport Officer, who is also designated as the Nodal Officer for Public Grievances of the Ministry for Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). The PG Cell deals with grievances received through CPGRAMS, telephone calls, Fax, e-mail and letters/posts received directly from general public and also references from various Government offices such as President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat and Central Vigilance Commission.

On receipt, grievances are sorted out and sent to the concerned Passport Office(s) for necessary action. If reply is not received within 2 weeks, a reminder is sent to the concerned Passport Office again. Directorate of Public Grievances has fixed 45 days time limit for disposal of grievances. However, the average time taken by PSP Division for disposal of these grievances is 15 to 17 days. The grievances under COVID 19 category are taken up on a high priority basis and are resolved within 3 days maximum.

Grievances in respect of passport services arise mainly due to Adverse Police Verification Report (PVR) & delay in issuance of passport in absence of necessary documentation. Grievances where policy matters are involved take slightly more time. It remains our priority to be quality-wise responsive while focusing on speedy disposal of public grievances.

**2.24** The Union Budget 2022 announced that India would launch the issuance of e-passports with embedded chip for ease of international travel. Apprising the Committee about e-passports, the Ministry stated that after successful completion of bid process has recently signed the Master Service Agreement (MSA) on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 with the selected bidder M/s. Tata Consultancy Services for the turnkey implementation and providing of services to MEA with reference to the PSP-V2.0. The timeline for successful implementation and Go-Live of PSP V2.0 is 18 months from the date of signing of the MSA. Recognizing the need to continually improve the quality of Government to Citizen (G2C) services and the mantra of Good Governance via IT and digital media, the Passport Seva Programme V2.0 would be embarking on technology upgrade with the use of Biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-Bot, Auto-response, Natural Language Processing, Cloud Enablement. The issuance of e-Passports for enhanced customer satisfaction, increased security and next level of citizen experience will also be unveiled in the upgraded PSP-V 2.0.

**2.25** When asked about the targets and timeline set for this project and the funds to be spent for this purpose, the Ministry stated that the Government is planning to issue e-passports to its citizens, starting in 2022-23. ISP Nashik has finalized the global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-

compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating system, which are required for manufacture of e-Passports. In this regard, ISP Nashik, has already issued Letters of Intent for procurement of 4.50 Crore ICAO Compliant Electronic chips. The entire quantity of 4.50 Crores inlays may be sufficient to produce passport booklets, which will meet the demand for the next 4-5 years. ISP Nashik will soon start the procurement process and manufacturing of the e-Passports.

**2.26** The Ministry also added that it has entrusted National Informatics Centre Services (NICS) with the technical responsibilities for issuing the e-Passports. Sample e-Passports are currently being tested and the full-scale manufacture and issue will commence with the completion of the technical eco-system and infrastructure. NICS had submitted various project proposals, including Detailed Project Report, commercial and draft agreements to the Ministry. The total anticipated expenditure for rollout of the e-Passport project by NIC is about Rs. 268.67 Crore. The anticipated expenditure of Rs. 268.67 Crores is primarily for building up Information and Technology Infrastructure for issuance of e-Passport. As per the DPR, readiness of e-Passport setup shall take 6 months from the date of Ministry's approval of the proposal to NICS. Once the set-up is ready, the Ministry shall conduct a third party audit after which rollout of issuance of e-Passport for the citizens would be started. The Ministry would be able to manage the e-Passport project within its allocated funds, and any additional fund requirement would be adequately catered to at Supplementary grants & RE stage.

**2.27** As regards the security features of chips inserted in e-passports, the Ministry stated that an e-Passport (also sometimes called biometric passport), is a combined paper and electronic passport that contains biometric information that can be used to authenticate the identity of travellers. The passport's critical information will be printed on the data page of the passport and also the personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally signed and stored in the chip, which would be embedded in the physical passport booklet. In case, anyone tampers with the chip, the system shall be able to identify it, resulting in the failure of the passport authentication. The chip characteristics are specified in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Document 9303. With introduction of this advanced security features, possibilities of forgery of Indian passports will be greatly eliminated.

**2.28** Furthermore, the main benefit of the e-passport is its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of data. This is expected to increase the level of confidence in the Indian passport. E-passports would also facilitate the ease of travel for Indian citizens, making their interface with immigration authorities much smoother. Since the ICAO has recommended its introduction by member countries, the introduction of e-passports would be in consonance with global best practices.

**2.29** Police Verification plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engages closely with the Police Departments across States/Union Territories (UTs) to speed up police verification. The Ministry has launched Android-based mPassport PoliceApp for end-to-end paperless digital flow. The app has the capability to capture the applicant's personal particulars and photograph and transmit the same electronically to concerned stakeholders.

**2.30** On being asked about the technical constraints faced by the Passport offices in capturing the Police Verification Report (PVR) digitally, the Ministry replied that the lack of connectivity and unavailability of multiple Internet Service Providers (ISP) and difficult geographical terrain are the technical constraints for integration of PSP system online with the District Police/Police Station in North East States and J&K region. However, till date 31 Police Stations in Assam have been successfully integrated with the PSP system through mPassport Police app. With regard to the other North East States, the Ministry has received positive responses from the State of Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

**2.31** When asked about the challenges faced in expansion of PSP, the Ministry specifically mentioned the shortage of personnel in the Central Passport Organization (CPO). Another challenge is identifying locations by Department of Posts for POPSKs.

**2.32** Enumerating the corrective steps taken in this regard, the Ministry stated that the sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organisation is 2741 and the actual working strength of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) Cadre is 1723 (as on 01.03.2021).

In addition, 21 posts (including 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff) were created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. The break-up of the vacancies is as under:

Sl.No.	Group'A'		Group'B'Gazetted		Group'B'andGroup'C' Non-Gazetted	
	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
Total	226	171	565	352	1950	1200
<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>213</b>		<b>750</b>	

**2.33** As regards steps being taken by the Ministry, the following is submitted:

a) Group 'A' Officers: The regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) are being conducted for the promotion of eligible officers to the next grade wherever officers from the feeder grades are available. Recently, a DPC in consultation with Union Public Service Commission was conducted to appoint 30 Assistant Passport Officers from feeder grade for promotion for the vacancy year 2022. Further, a circular was issued to invite applications from Central Government employees to appoint 5 Assistant Passport Officers on deputation basis.

b) Group 'B' (non-gazetted) and Group 'C' Posts: Similarly, regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committees (DPCs) are being conducted for the promotion of eligible officers to the next grade as per Recruitment Rules of the respective posts. The Direct Recruitments/Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations (LDCE) is being conducted from time to time by Staff Selection Commission. Recently, 93 dossiers from SSC against the vacancy year 2018 were received. Out of that, 74 appointment letters have been issued for appointment to the post of Junior Passport Assistant and the remaining 19 appointment letters are being issued. Besides this, Ministry has indented SSC for direct recruitment of 82 Assistant Superintendent, 25 Junior Translation Officer, 6 Stenographers(Grade "D") and 24 Office Assistant (MTS) pertaining to the different vacancy years against which dossiers are awaited.

The Ministry in association with Department of Posts (DOP) has announced opening of Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) in each Parliamentary constituency, where there is no PSK or POPSK.

As per Article 4 of the Agreement between MEA and DoP, DoP shall provide upto 1000 square feet space in Post Office at such locations as are mutually agreed to between Parties. The minimum space at agreed Post Offices shall not be less than 300 Square feet.

Once the location is selected for opening of POPSK, the required space is provided by DoP. The DoP shall spruce up the space by carrying out necessary civil and electrical work in accordance with the parameters as prescribed in Project Arrow, if required, for setting up the POPSK in the identified Post Office at agreed locations for which initial and recurring cost will be borne by DoP. Once DoP confirms the feasibility of availability of location, remaining POPSKs will be opened.

**2.34** Against the sanctioned strength of 2,741, the actual working strength of Central Passport Organization (CPO) is 1,733 (as on 01.02.2021)

**2.35** Regarding the progress made with regard to filling up of vacant posts, the Ministry stated that the sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organisation is 2741 and the actual working strength of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) Cadre is 1733 (as on 01.02.2021). In addition, 21 posts (including 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff) were created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. The break-up of the vacancies is as under:

Sl. No.	Group 'A'		Group 'B' Gazetted		Group 'B' and Group 'C' non Gazetted	
	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
Total	226	174	565	353	1950	1206
Vacancy	52		212		744	



Group 'A' Officers : Regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) are being held for the promotion of eligible officials to the next grade. Appointing the officers on deputation basis as per Recruitment Rules of Deputy Passport Officer and Passport Officer.

Group 'B' (non-gazetted) and Group 'C' Posts: Regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committees (DPCs) are being held for the promotion of eligible officers to the next grade and direct recruitment/Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) through Staff Selection Commission. 93 Dossiers for Junior Passport Assistant have been received from SSC and appointment letters are being issued. Dossiers for 96 Junior Passport Assistant, 82 Assistant Superintendent, 25 Junior Translation Officer, 6 Stenographers (Grade "D") and 24 Office Assistant (MTS) grade are awaited from the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). As an interim measure, the Ministry has engaged 347 Data Entry Operators to ease the pressure created due to shortage of staff.

**2.36** On the Committee's query, whether the Ministry intends to post the officers / staff of the CPO to the Consular Sections of Missions / Posts abroad, the Ministry stated that the Central Passport Organization (CPO) is a subordinate office of Ministry of External Affairs. The employees of CPO are governed by different Recruitment Rules and therefore, posting of officers/staff of the CPO to the Consular Sections of Missions/Posts abroad, is not under consideration.

**2.37** The Committee observe that the budgetary allocation under the sub head 'Passport and Emigration' has gone down from Rs. 1328.63 crore in BE 2021-22 to Rs. 1056.28 crore in RE 2021-22 and further to Rs.996.67 crore during BE 2022-23. The decreased allocation is primarily due to lesser anticipated expenditure under printing and procurement of travel documents, postal and freight charges for travel documents and service charges for Passport Seva Projects. The Ministry has further stated that requirements of funds, if any, will be considered at the supplementary stage. The Committee note that the Government has planned to issue e-passports to citizens from 2023 and the total anticipated expenditure for rollout of the e-Passport project by NIC is about Rs. 268.67 Crore.

The Committee welcome the use of ICT in improvement of passport issuance system as there is a proposal that the Passport Seva Project will embark on version 2.0 with greater focus on technology adaptation and upgradation through use of biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-bot, Auto response, natural language processing and Cloud Enablement.

*(Recommendation No. 8)*

2.38 The Committee note that Passport Seva Project, was started in 2012 in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and during all these years various measures have been undertaken by the Ministry for qualitative as well as quantitative improvements in delivery of passport services. The Committee has been informed that Passport Seva Project is embarking on Version 2.0 with the selection of new Service Provider and renewed focus on technology upgradation and adaptation.

Furthermore, a passport database named Passport Related Information Data Exchange (PRIDE) and a Public Grievance Redressal Cell has been active. For smooth police verification process, mPassport Police App was launched. The Committee are happy to learn that 177 Indian Missions/Posts have been integrated into the Passport Seva Project and in integration in the remaining are in progress. The Ministry has, however, apprised the Committee that lack of connectivity and unavailability of multiple Internet Service Providers (ISP) and difficult geographical terrain are the technical constraints for integration of PSP system online with the District Police/Police Station in North East States and J&K region.

Passport Seva Project has emerged as the most citizen centric initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs with expansive network of Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK). The Committee understand that due to COVID 19 Pandemic the average time to issue passports had slightly increased in the last two years, however, the Committee are hopeful that with the easing of Covid 19 relaxations, issuance of passport will be expedited. In the opinion of the Committee, police verification process requires

further streamlining and States/UTs should be encouraged to link the verification process with mPassport Police app. The Ministry should also strive to overcome the technical constraints faced by District Police/Police Stations in North East States and UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

*(Recommendation No. 9)*

2.39 The Committee note that version 2.0 of the Passport Seva Project will include the issuance of e passports to Indian citizens with embedded chip for ease of international travel. It will be a combined paper and electronic passport with a RFID chip and antenna embedded as an inlay in the back cover While ISP Nashik has finalized the global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating system, the National Informatics Centre Services (NICS) have been entrusted with the technical responsibilities for issuing the e-Passports.

The Committee welcome the issuance of e-passport from 2023 onwards and are hopeful that it will facilitate ease of travel for Indian citizens, increased security of data and will be in line with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take all requisite measures to ensure data privacy and security of the Indian citizens as contained in the chip. The Committee also desire to be apprised about the progress made with regard to issuance of e-passports.

*(Recommendation No. 10)*

2.40 The Committee note that the shortage of personnel in the Central Passport Organization has been a recurrent challenge in Passport Seva Project (PSP). As on 1 March, 2021, the sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organisation is 2741 and the actual working strength of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) Cadre is 1723. The Ministry has apprised the Committee about the corrective measures that are being taken to address this challenge. These include promotion of eligible officers to the next grade, deputation from Central

**Government employees, conducting of Direct Recruitments/Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations (LDCE) by Staff Selection Commission, etc. The Committee also recall that staffing study of CPO by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has been pending since 2019.**

**The issue of human capital has been a major area of concern and has been part of the Committee's recommendations over the years. Taking serious cognizance of this matter, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should take up this issue with Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) at the highest level and ensure that the vacant positions are filled up in the shortest possible time. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the status of the pending staffing study of CPO.**

*(Recommendation No. 11)*

### **III. International Cooperation: South Asian University and Nalanda University**

**2.41** Allocation under this head is for obligatory contributions to UNO and other international organizations of which India is a member; Establishment of South Asian University (SAU) and Nalanda University (NU); and for expenses on celebration of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and other schemes related to engagement with Indian Diaspora.

**2.42** An allocation of Rs. 1149.97 crore was made in BE 2021-22, which was slightly increased to Rs. 1153.81 crore at the RE stage. For BE 2022-23, an outlay of Rs. 898.46 has been provisioned under this sub-head. Explaining the reason for reduced allocations, the Ministry stated that reduced allocation at BE 2022-23 is mainly on account of lesser allocation of funds to South Asian University based on the physical progress of work and projected expenditure towards operational costs and construction of South Asian University building; reduced allocation for Nalanda International University based on physical progress and payment milestones; and reduced allocation for BIMSTEC Secretariat at this stage. To ensure optimal and effective utilization of budgetary allocation, funds are allocated to different heads as per their cycle of disbursement.

**2.43** The budgetary allocation for the construction of South Asian University (SAU) has been decreased from Rs. 314.00 crore in BE 2021-22 to Rs. 94 crore at RE stage and Rs. 128.00 crore in BE 2022-23. Justifying the reasons for significant reduction in allocation under this sub-head at the RE 2021-22 as well as BE 2022-23, the Ministry replied that allocation of funds to a user unit is made on the basis of estimates and trend of expenditure during the preceding period and fresh demand based on realistic projections for the next fiscal. In case of South Asian University (SAU), the allocation of Rs. 314 crore (includes India's assessed contribution, funds for construction project and payment of rent for temporary premises of SAU) in BE 2021-22 was reduced to Rs. 94 crore at the RE stage as construction work was slowed/halted due to the Covid-19 situation. In addition, the University also received tax refunds from previous expenditure met from capital budget. The funds available with the university from the previous year were sufficient to meet the expenditure on construction activities during FY 2021-22. The allocation under BE 2022-23 has been projected on the basis of the projected payments to be made to the user unit based on the estimated time line of construction activities, in addition to India's assessed contribution and rent payment for the temporary premises.

**2.44** The contribution of each country associated with the University till date is detailed below:

Country	Contribution(USD million)
Afghanistan	2.60
Bangladesh	5.57
Bhutan	2,.86
India	42.92
Maldives	2.86
Nepal	4.03
Pakistan	7.33

Sri Lanka	3.34
Total	71.51

Besides the operational contribution mentioned above, India provides 100% capital expenditure of the university including 93.68 acres of land for construction of the permanent campus, construction cost of the project, rent for its temporary premises in Akbar Bhavan, New Delhi etc.

**2.45** Over the years, the Committee in their Reports have expressed serious concerns over the undue delay in the completion of the South Asia University campus project. Providing the details of projected time line for completion of work. The Ministry submitted that out of the total land allotted for the construction of the permanent campus, the construction is ongoing on approximately 50% of the land. Five buildings are physically complete but testing and commissioning of the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing equipment are to be undertaken to obtain the occupancy certificate. Civil work in seven more building is still ongoing. However, no construction has been initiated in the other 50% of the land due to various litigations viz court cases, geo-morphological ridge, etc. The delay in the campus development project is due to COVID pandemic and ongoing litigation pertaining to several parcels of land inside the designated campus area. Ministry is following up for early settlement of the court cases and out of initial 12 court cases, six cases have already been settled.

**2.46** During the course of oral evidence on 28.02.2022, the Foreign Secretary further testified:

“Construction work of South Asian University continues to face many challenges. Therefore, budgetary utilization under this head has not been significant in the last 2 financial years. However, we have re-appropriated such savings to heads where expenditure has been healthy, as reflected in enhanced allocations at RE stage under other heads. As indicated to the Committee in the last briefing in February 2021, in addition to the disruption of work due to pollution control measures in 2019, COVID-19 related lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, and legal

proceedings related to the original land acquisition by DDA continue to pose challenges to the completion of the project.

Some parcels of land, currently under legal proceedings, are required for constructing critical facilities, including faculty buildings and student hostels. Other disputed land parcels are required for developing common areas in the campus that must be fully completed to get mandatory permissions from the local authorities to enable physical occupation. We expect a new President of SAU to join in the coming months. We are hopeful that under the leadership of a full-time Indian President, the University will make rapid strides.”

**2.47** Nalanda University (NU) was established by an Act of Parliament with an objective to emerge as an “international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies”. It was established in the backdrop of a proposal mooted at the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2007 for reviving ancient Nalanda and establishing a 21st century institution of learning, linking South and East Asia. Subsequently, in 2009, with India’s active lead, the EAS issued a Joint Statement supporting the establishment of the Nalanda University as a non-state, non-profit, secular and self-governing institution with a continental focus at the 4th EAS Summit in Thailand. The NU Act came into force in November 2010. An intergovernmental MoU was signed by 8 EAS countries in October 2013. Thereafter, 9 more EAS and other countries have signed the MoU, taking the participating countries number to 17. The 17 participating countries are - Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

**2.48** The allocations of Rs. 250.00 crore given under the sub-head ‘Nalanda University’ at BE 2021-22 were enhanced to Rs. 350 crore at RE 2021-22. The allocation at BE 2022-23 was reduced to Rs. 200.00 crore. On being asked about the progress of work of Nalanda University under each package, the Ministry stated that in 2014, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had sanctioned a total funding of Rs. 2727.10 crores for the NU Project.

- The sanctioned funding was allocated under the heads - Capital Expenditure: Rs. 1749.65 crores; and Recurring Expenditure: Rs. 977.45 crores - for a ten-year period from FY 2010-11 to FY 2021-22.
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022, the total amount released by the Ministry is Rs. 1240.68 crore.
- In FY 2021-22, the RE of the Ministry for Nalanda University was Rs. 350 crore.
- The construction of the NU Campus infrastructure commenced significantly since 2017. Currently, over 90% of the infrastructure comprising of all Academic blocks, Administrative buildings, Laboratories, Auditoriums, campus amenities, utility structures including the site development works etc. stand completed. The construction of the Student Hostel blocks and residences for the faculty & staff commenced in end of 2018 wherein over 70% progress has been achieved.
- A package-wise status of physical progress is enumerated under **Annexure-II**.

**2.49** The Committee was keen to know whether any monitoring mechanism has been put in place to avoid further delays in the Project. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that the following is the institutional mechanism for monitoring the development of the NU project -

- A. **The Building & Works Committee & the Finance Committee** – These are the statutory Authorities of the University who accord technical and financial sanctions to the Tender Packages and monitor the progress of the work. Both the Committees meet regularly to oversee the progress.
- B. **The Project Management Consultant (MECON)** – The day-to-day work progress and quality are monitored by the Project Management Consultant, MECON Ltd which is a PSU under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India. MECON has deployed a team of 25 engineers at various levels to monitor work progress and quality on daily basis.
- C. **The Project Monitoring Committee** – A Project Monitoring Committee was established by the University in November 2017 with highly experienced



serving/ retired Engineers from Building Construction Department, Govt. of Bihar along with a representation from the Ministry. The Committee meets bi-monthly for review of progress of works and ensure that the works are in compliance with the quality norms and timely completion of work

D. **The Nodal Officer** –The Government of Bihar has nominated the Engineer-In-Chief (retd.), Building Construction Department as the Nodal Officer for the NU Project. The Nodal Officer closely and vigilantly monitors the work progress and issue directives to the project implementing agencies. The Nodal Officer visits the site and conduct progress review on a monthly basis.

E. **The External Technical Experts** – Nalanda University has appointed a team of External Technical Experts comprising of serving & retired Engineers from CPWD/CVC, Building Construction Dept. (Bihar Govt.) to technically assess, review and evaluate all the Tenders of the University to implement a transparent process of selection of the Contractors for execution of the works.

**2.50** On being asked to enumerate the opportunities explored by Ministry of External Affairs for channelizing contributions for the project from other countries, which have signed MoU, the Ministry responded that it has undertaken various efforts to explore opportunities for channelizing contribution from the Member Countries.

- The Ministry encourages and invites East Asian countries to institute Fellowships and Chairs in the name of the Country/Ambassador's Fellowship/ in individual name or endowment funds for the University.
- Endowment funds have been received from – (i) China, (ii) Australia, (iii) Laos (iv) Indonesia and (v) Thailand.
- Since 2017, the University has expanded its academic programmes with new Schools of Studies and Centers. In view of the growth of the University, the Ministry has been able to enhance the contributions in terms of Fellowships/Scholarships –
  - (a) 30 BIMSTEC Fellowships for students from BIMSTEC countries

- (b) 20 ASEAN Fellowships (for students from ASEAN Member Countries)
- (c) 5 Bhutan Scholarships (for students from Bhutan)
- (d) Thai Endowment Scholarship (for students from Thailand)
- The Ministry in December 2021 organised an interaction with the Heads of Missions of Member-States of Nalanda University. 13 Member Countries participated in the Interaction. The University made an outreach to expand funding mechanisms for the Member-States which was received positively.
- The University in consultation with Indian Consulate in Osaka-Kobe has initiated, in 2022, the process to institute scholarships for Japanese students to pursue Masters and Ph. D. programmes in Buddhist Studies.

**2.51** Apprising the Committee about the progress made with regard to the Nalanda University, the Foreign Secretary on 28 February, 2022 testified as under:

“In Nalanda University, over 90 per cent of construction of 84 Academic and Administrative structures has been completed with completion of over 70 per cent of 113 residential structures. The University is fully functional at the new campus. All infrastructure development is likely to be completed by the Financial Year 2025-26. Currently, Nalanda University houses more than 700 students, out of which 173 students are foreign nationals from 31 different countries. The University also houses 46 academic/teaching faculty, out of which 17 are foreign faculty. New Schools such as School of Languages and Literature/Humanities, School of Management Studies; and School of International Relations, have been established, in addition to setting up of new Centres like Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies, Common Archival Resource Centre; Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies.”

**2.52** When asked about the efforts being made to expedite the construction of both the Nalanda University as well as South Asian University, the Ministry stated South Asian University - As per the current architecture to implement the construction of permanent campus of the University, SAU President is entrusted with the responsibility in addition to the primary duties of running an international educational institution. The tenure of the last regular President ended in November 2019. Delay in the construction

of the University campus is due to a combination of factors, including land encumbrances, delays in obtaining statutory approvals, frequent bans on construction activity in NCR and COVID-19 pandemic. With the appointment of the new President in April 2022, the pace of construction is expected to pick up. The Ministry is committed to the realization of a permanent campus of the University at the earliest.

Nalanda University- Currently, over 90% of construction of 84 Academic and Administrative structures have been completed. Over 70% of construction of 113 residential structures has been completed. Out of a sanctioned Capital Expenditure of Rs. 1749.65 crores by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), a sum of Rs. 1060.79 crores has been spent by NU as of January 2022. And out of a sanctioned Recurring Expenditure of Rs. 977.45 crore by CCEA, a sum of Rs. 212.98 crores has been spent by NU as of January 2022. The University is currently functional at the new campus. The approved infrastructure development is likely to be completed by FY 2025-26.

**2.53** Regarding the measures that are being taken to uphold the academic standards of the Universities, the Ministry stated as under:

Nalanda University: The objectives of Nalanda University are spelt out in the Nalanda University Act, 2010. The academic framework is carried out as per Statutes and Ordinances enacted from time to time. In December 2021, Nalanda University Statutes (Amendment) - 2021 and Nalanda University (Academic) Ordinances – 2021 have been published in the Gazette Notification after assent of Hon'ble Visitor. The Governing Board, Academic Council, Board of Schools and Centres provide the institutional framework for setting academic standards for the University. The roles and functions of these bodies are provided in the Act and Statutes of the University. In consonance with the legislative provisions, the University has substantial autonomy in setting academic standards.

South Asian University: The Governing Board of the South Asian University is the highest policy and decision making body of the University. It has two members from each SAARC Member States and the President is the ex-officio member of the

Governing Board. The Governing Board decides on matters including the academic standards required to be upheld by the University.

**2.54** The Committee observe that the budgetary allocation for the construction of South Asian University (SAU) has decreased from Rs. 314.00 crore in BE 2021-22 (Rs. 94 crore at RE stage) to Rs. 128.00 crore in BE 2022-23. The reduction in allocation at BE 2022-23, is based on the physical progress of work and projected expenditure towards operational costs. It is noted that out of the total land allotted for the construction of the permanent campus, construction is ongoing only on approximately 50% of the land. Due to a combination of factors, including land encumbrances, delays in obtaining statutory approvals, frequent bans on construction activity in NCR and COVID-19 Pandemic the construction work has been delayed. No construction work has commenced on the remaining part of the land due to various reasons *viz* court cases, geo-morphological ridge, etc.

The Committee are dismayed to note that despite their repeated recommendation, the progress in construction of South Asian University has been unsatisfactory. The Committee are hopeful that with the appointment of a full-time President, the University will make rapid strides. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should take all necessary measures, including establishment of a monitoring Committee, to overcome these challenges and ensure that the construction work (including in the remaining 50 per cent of the land) is completed at the earliest. The Committee also desire to be kept informed about the progress made in this regard.

*(Recommendation No. 12)*

**2.55** Nalanda University was established with the overarching objective of emerging as “international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies”. An outlay of Rs. 250.00 crore was provisioned for Nalanda University at BE 2021-22, which was increased to Rs. 350 crore at RE stage. The allocation at BE 2022-23 has been reduced to Rs. 200 crore. The Committee find that the progress in construction of this University has been

satisfactory. Over 90 per cent of the infrastructure comprising of all Academic blocks, Administrative buildings, Laboratories, Auditoriums, campus amenities, utility structures including the site development works etc has been completed. Moreover, the construction of the student hostel blocks and residences for the faculty & staff that commenced in end of 2018 has seen 70% progress. The Committee are happy to note that the Governing Board, Academic Council, Board of Schools and Centres provide the institutional framework for setting academic standards for the University and the Nalanda University is fully functional at the new campus. The Committee desire that the remaining construction work related to residential buildings should be completed in a time bound manner and academic credentials of the University are upheld.

*(Recommendation No. 13)*

**CHAPTER 3**  
**INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India has substantially expanded its development programmes in various countries which includes grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LoC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short term civilian and military training courses encompassing the geographical reach and sectoral coverage. Inspired by the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India's international development cooperation has expanded significantly in recent years in its geographical reach as well as in the areas of cooperation.

**3.1** The budget head 'Technical & Economic Cooperation' caters to India's aid and assistance programmes not only in India's immediate and extended neighborhood, but also countries in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Indo-Pacific region. It also caters for Aid for Disaster Relief and contributions to various regional funds. Aid programmes are influenced by the dynamics of India's national interest, diplomatic engagements and political relations. The table below illustrates the details of aid and loans to countries:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>BE 2021-22</b>	<b>RE 2021-22</b>	<b>BE 2022-23</b>
1.	Bangladesh	200.00	300.00	300.00
2.	Bhutan	2124.20	1274.64	1560.01
3.	Nepal	992.00	650.00	750.00
4.	Sri Lanka	200.00	50.00	200.00
5.	Maldives	250.00	260.00	360.00
6.	Myanmar	400.00	600.00	600.00
7.	Other Developing Countries	130.00	90.00	150.00
8.	Disaster Relief	20.00	5.00	10.00

9.	ITEC	150.00	75.00	167.70
10.	SAARC Programme	6.00	6.00	6.00
11.	African countries	300.00	200.00	250.00
12.	Multilateral Economic Relations Programmes	10.20	10.20	14.00
13.	Investment & Promotion	270.00	270.00	210.00
14.	Eurasian Countries	100.00	100.00	140.00
15.	Afghanistan	350.00	200.00	200.00
16.	Latin America	40.00	55.00	40.00
17.	Indo-Pacific Cooperation	40.00	40.00	50.00
18.	Mongolia	2.00	2.00	12.00
19.	Chabahar Port	100.00	100.00	100.00
20.	Mauritius	900.00	900.00	900.00
21.	Seychelles	160.00	20.00	14.06

**3.2** When asked about the parameters for proposing budget under the head 'aid programmes', the Ministry submitted that allocations for Aid heads are made after undertaking a realistic assessment of needs & spending patterns, based on project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress for on-going projects, schemes and programmes; and based on project implementation timelines and cost estimates for planned projects, schemes and programmes. For ongoing projects under the aid programs, the budgetary requirements are gauged based on inputs from the primary Divisions/Spending units who are closely involved with the Implementing Agencies in monitoring the progress of work. The inputs thus received are collated and compared with the past utilization, work progress and pace of expenditure of the project. With this information, deliberations are conducted by Integrated Finance Division of the Ministry, with the Divisions to get realistic estimates of their demands. Similarly, for new projects, budgetary provisions are made as per estimates determined by project implementation timelines and cost estimates in their Detailed Project Reports. Allocations are then made to the extent of funds available within the overall budgetary provision made by Ministry of Finance. The selection of the projects to be undertaken

under the Aid heads is an administrative decision which is taken by the Territorial Divisions and DPA, in view of the political relations with the respective countries.

**3.3** The following table shows percentage of MEA's total budget outlay earmarked under the head 'Technical and Economic Cooperation' (TEC) during the past three years –

(Rs. In Crores)

Year	Budget Outlay (BE)	TEC (BE)	% age of BE	Budget Outlay (RE)	TEC (RE)	% age of RE
2018-19	15011.00	5148.55	34.30%	15582.00	5970.50	38.32%
2019-20	17884.78	7333.79	41.01%	17372.27	6619.78	38.11%
2020-21	17346.71	6617.37	38.15%	15000.00	5145.26	34.30%
2021-22	18154.73	7635.15	42.06%	16000.00	5698.43	35.62%
2022-23	17250.00	6043.77	35.03%	-	-	-

**3.4** The details of budgetary demands made, actual allocations given and utilization under this Head to various countries during past three years are given below –

(Rs. in crore)

Budget Heads	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp.	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp.	BE Demand	BE Allocation	Actual Exp. *
Aid to Bangladesh	466.27	175.00	137.68	535.35	200.00	177.98	300.00	200.00	171.14
Aid to Bhutan (Grants)	2562.40	2135.79	2041.41	2203.69	2052.37	1558.52	2085.42	2124.2	882.45
Aid to Nepal	1452.35	1050.00	1198.26	1206.12	800.00	879.12	1387.50	992.00	252.09
Aid to Sri Lanka	512.50	250.00	201.09	399.15	200.00	44.81	300.00	200.00	17.71



<b>Aid to Maldives</b>	417.22	400.00	134.41	844.90	300.00	160.19	500.00	250.00	198.23
<b>Aid to Myanmar</b>	954.78	400.00	162.30	914.94	300.00	347.06	600.00	400.00	368.91
<b>Aid to Other Developing Countries</b>	204.53	150.00	138.23	165.22	120.00	117.13	180.00	130.00	78.17
<b>Aid to African Countries</b>	1269.91	450.00	497.81	819.76	350.00	226.28	1349.29	300.00	66.67
<b>Aid to Eurasian Countries</b>	38.65	45.00	29.89	60.97	45.00	45.42	150.00	100.00	64.17
<b>Aid to Latin American Countries</b>	35.00	15.00	12.16	61.18	20.00	11.77	64.46	40.00	26.23
<b>Aid to Afghanistan</b>	867.99	400.00	408.12	614.04	400.00	348.82	409.74	350.00	107.24
<b>Aid to Mongolia</b>	2.10	5.00	0.00	5.15	2.00	0.48	6.45	2.00	0.00
<b>Aid to Mauritius</b>	1544.33	1100.00	1100.00	1540.56	1025.00	652.06	1760.55	900.00	621.42
<b>Aid to Seychelles</b>	145.41	100.00	24.50	81.24	140.00	90.29	299.68	160.00	18.46

*\*up to January 2022*

**3.5** We can clearly discern that there has been decrease in aid to countries like Bhutan, Nepal, African countries, Seychelles, Afghanistan. During the examination of Demands for Grants during the past three years and through the Action Taken Reports, the Committee had specifically recommended that the Ministry should refrain from reducing funds to aid to countries.

**3.6** When asked about the actions initiated by it to secure additional funds and the response of the Ministry of Finance, the former replied that as per the Hon'ble

Committee’s recommendation, allocations for various Aid heads are done through careful prioritization within available resources to ensure that none of our developmental work suffers any setback and all our commitments are implemented smoothly and speedily. For ongoing projects under the aid programs, the budgetary requirements are gauged based on inputs from the primary Divisions/Spending units who are closely involved with the Implementing Agencies in monitoring the progress of work. The inputs thus received are collated and compared with the past utilization, work progress and pace of expenditure of the project. With this information, deliberations are conducted with the Divisions to get realistic estimates of their demands, assessment based on project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress of projects. It is in consonance with Zero-based budgeting, that no head including Scheme or Non-Scheme heads are given fixed or rigid budgetary resource allocation/management, but, each head is assessed for respective demands considering a base of Zero. Reduction and enhancement of budget is in alignment with principle of Zero based budgeting and overall approach of Outcome-centric assessment instead of Outlay-centric, which guides Government’s Scheme implementation.

**3.7** The Ministry further added that the issue of provision of adequate allocation of funds is regularly taken up with the Ministry of Finance at various levels, including at the level of Minister, Secretary and Financial Advisor, apart from regular interaction at other levels. The response of the Ministry of Finance has been positive and constructive, as indicated by the decreasing gap between Ministry’s demand and allocation of funds, over the years, thereby indicating constructive appreciation of Ministry’s requirements. Ministry will keep doing a dynamic and realistic assessments of funds for the Aid heads, in line with Committee’s recommendation, and if required will seek additional funds from Ministry of Finance, including Supplementary grants or enhanced RE 2022-23 allocation.

**3.8** The table illustrates the Aid heads where budgetary allocation has been lesser than projected demand –

*(Rs. in crore)*

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
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<b>Budget Heads</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>
<b>Aid to Bangladesh</b>	403.81	175.00	466.27	175.00	535.35	200.00	300.00	200.00
<b>Aid to Bhutan (Grants)</b>	2100.00	1813.50	2562.40	2135.79	2203.69	2052.37	2085.42	2124.20
<b>Aid to Nepal</b>	1018.45	650.00	1452.35	1050.00	1206.12	800.00	1387.50	992.00
<b>Aid to Sri Lanka</b>	538.00	150.00	512.50	250.00	399.15	200.00	300.00	200.00
<b>Aid to Maldives</b>	194.18	125.00	417.22	400.00	844.90	300.00	500.00	250.00
<b>Aid to Myanmar</b>	800.71	280.00	954.78	400.00	914.94	300.00	600.00	400.00
<b>Aid to Other Developing Countries</b>	185.63	115.00	204.53	150.00	165.22	120.00	180.00	130.00
<b>Aid to African Countries</b>	768.81	200.00	1269.91	450.00	819.76	350.00	1349.29	300.00
<b>Aid to Eurasian Countries</b>	47.59	30.00	38.65	45.00	60.97	45.00	150.00	100.00
<b>Aid to Latin American Countries</b>	44.06	20.00	35.00	15.00	61.18	20.00	64.46	40.00

<b>Aid to Afghanistan</b>	627.50	325.00	867.99	400.00	614.04	400.00	409.74	350.00
<b>Aid to Mongolia</b>	5.00	5.00	2.10	5.00	5.15	2.00	6.45	2.00
<b>Aid to Mauritius</b>	800.00	350.00	1544.33	1100.00	1540.56	1025.00	1760.55	900.00
<b>Aid to Seychelles</b>	600.00	300.00	145.41	100.00	81.24	140.00	299.68	160.00

It is Ministry's assessment that allocated budgetary resources have sufficed Ministry's commitments, even in Development partnership (Scheme heads) and payments/obligations have not been deferred for want of budgetary resource. It is corroborated by Ministry's over 98% utilization of RE allocations in past years.

**3.9** The Committee were keen to know about existence of long term policy guiding and shaping our budgetary provisions for international commitments to various countries and regions. The Ministry submitted that Grant Assistance projects in the friendly partner countries for capacity building assistance are implemented with the long-term goal of generating goodwill and converting the goodwill so generated into a positive influence or leverage to derive foreign policy objectives. These projects are firmly rooted in the underlying principles of South-South Cooperation, *i.e.* mutual benefit, solidarity, free of conditionality and voluntary and demand-driven cooperation. The *raison d'être* for implementation of these development assistance projects is impact and outcome assessment undertaken prior to conceptualization of such projects. Our approach to development assistance partnership with friendly countries is firmly rooted in beneficiary demand-driven project selection and implementation process which is fair, transparent and efficient.

**3.10** When asked about the challenges faced in implementation of development partnership in other countries, the Ministry stated that issues pertaining to Taxation & tax exemption; Infrastructure bottlenecks like availability of land, building, electricity,

water & security; Covid related problems like travel restrictions and quarantine regulations and occurrence of other force Majeure situations in host countries has been a major challenge hindering timely execution of foreign projects. Ministry aims to mitigate the effect of such occurrences through proper and timely co-ordination with host government at different levels. Many times there are delays in getting these from the local governments, which are beyond the control of Government of India, resulting in delays in implementation. Ministry, through our Missions, closely monitors the projects to resolve bottlenecks. Ministry also works closely with partner Governments to resolve the issues related to mobilization of resources and obtaining various statutory clearances at the local level.

**3.11** While tendering evidence before the Committee on 28. February 2022, the Foreign Secretary has stated that the review and monitoring mechanism for international projects have been institutionalized. Providing details of the institutionalized mechanism, the Ministry stated that International projects are closely monitored at the operational level by the Indian Mission in the respective country. DPA periodically reviews the progress of the project through review meetings, involving all stakeholders in the project. Apart from these, DPA also holds a bilateral review meeting with the partner Governments every year to assess the state of the development partnership and to resolve pending issues, if any. FS/EAM undertakes frequent review meetings on the status of the major international projects that are under consideration. Hon'ble PM also reviews major international projects under the PRAGATI scheme.

**3.12** The Ministry has stated that there has been more intensive monitoring and review of the technical aid and development assistance projects in the past year, including at the level of the External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary. These reviews have identified the way forward for many projects where progress was slow. Further, due to the regular review and monitoring of MEA's scheme section at high levels, several new initiatives and projects have been identified in consultation with the concerned beneficiary host governments, which would be getting finalized and operationalized in due course. When asked to provide details of the new initiatives and projects identified, the Ministry stated the following :

- New initiatives and projects include construction of Nepal Police Academy, bids for which have been invited in December 2021. In Mongolia, an India-Mongolia Friendship School has been planned.
- Grains diplomacy has been institutionalised for implementation by Ministry. In March, 2022, 10000 MT of rice and 200 MT of wheat have been supplied to Myanmar as humanitarian aid. Further, we are in the process of supplying 20,000 MT of rice and 3000 MT of wheat, as Grant-in aid to 18 African countries including Somalia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Sudan, DRC, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe as well as to Lebanon.
- In capacity building, Ministry had received several requests for training in the health domain for Covid related management, especially during the early days of the pandemic. Several online training courses were conducted by DPA II Division through the e-ITEC modality in partnership with AIIMS and PGI, Chandigarh for healthcare professionals especially in the neighbourhood countries. Bangladesh had specifically requested for training in Bangla language, which was also delivered. Based on this experience, DPA II is rolling out further healthcare related virtual training programmes in the coming financial year. The exact timing of these trainings will depend on the availability of trainees in the recipient countries.
- Based on the request received from the Government of Cambodia, we have initiated a project for building the capacity of the local authorities in that country for reinduction of wild tiger. The first team of experts have already been dispatched to Cambodia.
- Based on the requests for training received from various governments, Ministry draws up customised e-ITEC courses for delivering these trainings. The e-ITEC initiative has been developed by the ministry in response to the pandemic related travel restrictions. Under this modality, in-person scholarships have been replaced by focused and intensive virtual training programmes. Division has identified domains like English language proficiency, judiciary, public finance/audit and cyber security/digital forensics as some of the domains in

which there is requirements for extensive capacity building. Courses in these domains are being delivered through out the year.

- Digital documentation of cultural heritage is another new initiative of MEA. Under this initiative, IIT Jodhpur has been identified as the nodal agency for undertaking identification and digitization of monuments. MOU is currently being discussed between IIT Jodhpur and corresponding technical institutions in Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is expected to operationalise this MOU after the normalisation of travel restrictions.
- Similarly, Ministry is also working for the digitisation of Indic-origin manuscripts held in collections abroad. An MOU for undertaking digitisation and cataloging of nearly 900 manuscripts at four locations abroad is being finalised and will be operationalised in the coming financial year.

**3.13** The Committee further asked about conducting of a study on the impact of the development partnership in bolstering our relationship with the concerned countries. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that Development Partnership Initiatives have positive impact on India's relationship with the partner countries in a multi-faceted way. The diplomatic impacts are evident from receptivity of the host government. Many partner countries have repeatedly requested to further strengthen India's development partnership with their countries. From the economic perspective, all projects are evaluated based on the economic benefits that would accrue to India, in addition to the benefits identified by the partnership country domestically. All projects under GOI Lines of Credit are executed through Indian companies. This also opens up future markets for Indian project exports. In addition, a more systematize impact assessment mechanism has been proposed as part of the Cabinet Note on renewing the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).

**3.14** When asked about the details of capacity building measures and training taken up under 'Aid heads' during 2020 and 2021, the Ministry replied that except for neighboring countries, all expenditure pertaining to capacity building activities are taken up under the head of "ITEC Programme". With respect to neighboring countries, country-focussed specific capacity building activities are also being carried by

respective territorial divisions, and the expenditure met out of the respective 'Aid Heads'.

**3.15** Updated note on capacity building initiatives carried out by under this head is given below:

**ITEC Scholarships:** The Ministry of External Affairs, through its flagship ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) Scheme has been offering valuable capacity building trainings at premier, internationally renowned Indian institutions to foreign civil servants and professionals nominated by their countries. Originally constituted in 1964, the ITEC scheme is structured into an annual country-wise allocation of 'training slots' which are offered to our developing partner countries in the Global South. Against these slots, candidates nominated by these countries are provided admission to the ITEC training courses in India. These courses are of varying duration, ranging from a few months to 1 year at Indian institutions, and cover a wide range of subjects in public administration, industry, agriculture, management and entrepreneurship, power/renewables, development studies (rural, urban, sustainable), banking/finance/audit/trade, English language training and law/justice/police administration. In 2019-2020, about 11645 slots for 380 courses in 98 Indian institutes were offered under the ITEC Scheme. Currently, all in-person trainings are halted due to pandemic induced travel restrictions. As soon as pandemic-related travel restrictions on international air travel are lifted, Ministry proposes to restart this programme

**eITEC online trainings :** The eITEC scheme is a digital improvisation necessitated by the pandemic induced travel restrictions. Since the onset of pandemic induced travel restrictions in March 2020, MEA has continued its programme of capacity building by making use of digital technology. Under this scheme, focussed, thematic short term capacity building courses are delivered through online webinars. More than 80 eITEC courses were conducted in FY 20-21 and nearly 140 courses have been/are being conducted in FY 2021-22. An unique feature of the eITEC scheme has been the ability to deliver capacity building courses in innovative areas unique to India; for example, one of the most successful eITEC courses have been trainings on Vipassana meditation. There is also much demand for capacity building in subjects related to public health,



epidemiology and covid management, for which several eITEC courses have been organised. This modality of capacity building has been immensely successful, and several country-specific are being also delivered. Nearly 40 such customised courses were conducted in FY 2020-21, and another 40 courses have been conducted till date in FY 21-22.

**ITEC Experts** : Apart from ITEC training slots and eITEC schemes, India also provides capacity building assistance in the form of sending Indian experts on deputation to the partner countries in areas requested by them. These ITEC experts are embedded in host government for varying periods ranging from 6 months to one year, and allow us to build a long-lasting sustainable engagement with that country. Till date, MEA has sent about 144 experts to 18 countries under this modality. During 2019-2020, a total of 61 such experts were sent to various countries in areas such as defence, audit, legislation & drafting, ICT, Cyber-forensics, Ayurveda, Management, archaeology etc. This modality is an extremely focussed and useful capacity building initiative and will be continued, as per the demands received from beneficiary countries.

**3.16** The Committee were keen to know whether the allocated amount is adequate to check increasing Chinese influence in various countries particularly in our neighbourhood, the Ministry responded that India's relations with its neighbours stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries. The Government of India has a well articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First' with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. The Government of India attaches high priority to our relationship with our neighbouring countries. These engagements cover a wide canvas of subjects like projects on greater connectivity, improved infrastructure, strong cooperation in sectoral areas (like education, culture, trade & investments, defence and security) and broader people-to-people contacts. Adequate budgetary provision is done under international Scheme heads based on realistic assessment of ongoing projects as well as new commitments.

**3.17** Highlighting the significance of our development partnership in neighbourhood, the Foreign Secretary during the course of oral evidence on 28 February 2022 stated:

“Deepening of India’s development partnership with immediate neighbours is an important element of the political and economic objectives of our Neighbourhood First policy. In line with this policy, we are implementing not only large infrastructure projects such as hydroelectric plants, railway, power transmission lines, housing, roads, waterways, ports, and bridges; but also many small-scale but high-visibility grass-roots projects, known as High Impact Community Development Programmes; as well as training and capacity-building programmes. Defence cooperation projects are an important tool of our development partnership.”

**3.18** The Committee note that out of MEA’s budget of Rs. 17250 crore, an outlay of Rs. 6043.77 crore (35.03%) has been provisioned for ‘Technical and Economic Cooperation’ that caters to Indian’s aid and assistance programme. The Committee note that the funds under this sub head are proposed after undertaking a realistic assessment of needs & spending patterns, project implementation cycles, local conditions and physical progress for on-going projects, schemes and programmes. As per the Ministry, the issue of adequate provisioning of funds under this sub head is regularly taken up with the Ministry of Finance and the response of the latter has been ‘positive’ and ‘constructive’. The Committee, however, are not satisfied with MEA’s assertion as the budgetary allocation under this head has not only been reduced but is the lowest in terms of percentage *vis-a-vis* last five years.

In Committee’s view, Development Partnership Initiatives have positive impact on India’s relationship with the partner countries in a multi-faceted way. Over the years, the Committee have categorically recommended that this sub head must be kept immune from budgetary cuts as India’s global image and credentials directly hinges on it. The Committee are distressed to note that neither the Ministry of External Affairs nor the Ministry of Finance has paid desired attention. The Committee, therefore, recommend that this issue should be

treated with utmost priority and the Ministry should make earnest efforts to impress upon the Ministry of Finance to have a better appreciation of our technical and development cooperation and associated fund requirements. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the steps taken and the outcome thereof.

*(Recommendation No 14)*

3.19 The Committee note that the extent, magnitude and scope of India's international development cooperation have expanded significantly in recent years. The Ministry has submitted that the developmental aid and assistance projects, including capacity building assistance are implemented with the long-term goal of generating goodwill and thereby creating positive influence or leverage to derive foreign policy objectives. The Committee are aware about the plethora of challenges faced in implementation of projects abroad. The Committee have also taken note of the institutionalized review mechanism for monitoring of technical aid and development assistance projects. Expressing concern over the unpredictable budgetary demands and allocation under this Head, and reiterating their opinion, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should frame a developmental aid/cooperation policy and a separate aid disbursement body should be established for smooth and effective implementation of international aid projects.

*(Recommendation No 15)*

3.20 The Committee observe that India's development projects in neighbouring countries cover a range of sectors from infrastructure development, including construction, roads & bridges, waterways and transmission lines as also power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, rural development etc. The Ministry has made the submission that the Government of India attaches high priority to our relationship with our neighbouring countries and has a well articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First' with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. The Committee, however notices that there has been reduction in allocation under 'Aid to Nepal', 'Aid to Bhutan', and 'Aid to Afghanistan'. In view of the increasing

**Chinese outreach and presence in India's neighbourhood, the Committee feel that India needs to review and enhance their developmental diplomacy. The Committee, therefore, desire that a strategy/vision should be formulated to expand our developmental partnership, particularly capacity building and knowledge sharing, to effectively counter the presence of other regional powers in our neighbourhood.**

***(Recommendation No 16)***

**I. Aid to Bangladesh**

**3.21** The budgetary allocation made under the sub-head 'Aid to Bangladesh' was Rs. 200 crore during BE 2021-22, which was increased to Rs. 300.00 crore in RE 2021-22. The allocation at BE 2022-23 has been earmarked as Rs. 300 crore. Enumerating the reasons for increase in the allocation at the RE stage for 2021-22, the Ministry stated that the RE 2021-22 allocation under this head has been increased based on realistic assessment of physical progress in projects and pace of expenditure in ongoing construction of IBF pipeline from Siliguri to Parabatipur, dredging of Indo-Bangladesh inland water transit, gifting of Ambulances to Bangladesh, numerous High Impact Development Projects, in addition to ongoing commitments towards Muktiyodha scholarships, ICCR scholarships, training of Bangladeshi officials, among others.

**3.22** Specifying the projects along with timelines that will be initiated or completed in Bangladesh during 2022-23, the Ministry stated that Bangladesh Portion of the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link: It is a cross-border rail connectivity project to connect the existing station of Agartala in India to the Gangasagar station in Bangladesh and MoU was signed between GOI and GOB in February 2013. Bangladesh Portion, which is being funded by Ministry of External Affairs as grant assistance was approved at a cost of Rs. 392.52 Crore. The project is being implemented by IRCON ISL. Physical Progress of 50% has been achieved in the project. The project is delayed due to several reasons including disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic and heavy monsoon rainfall in project area. Multiple review meetings have been conducted by MEA and by Ministry of Railways to increase the pace of progress. Joint review of the project has been

conducted by MEA with concerned Bangladesh officials and PMC, M/s IRCON on 20 Dec 2021.

**3.23** Moreover, despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Government of India has been able to make progress on the development cooperation initiatives with Bangladesh. In the year 2022, the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline project is scheduled to be operationalised. Under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), three projects have been completed in the financial year 2021-22: (i) reconstruction work at the National Sree Sree Ramna Kalimandir & Sree Maa Anandamoyee Ashram in Dhaka (ii) Construction of a five storied women's hostel at Umesh Chandra Nirmala Bala Chatrabash, Sylhet (iii) development project at Jamalpur Gandhi Ashram, Jamalpur. Additionally two projects have commenced during this year (i) construction of fine arts faculty building at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka (ii) extended development work of Shilaidaha Rabindra Kuthibari.

**3.34** During the course of oral evidence on 28 February, 2022, the Foreign Secretary stated as under:

“In Bangladesh, key ongoing projects include the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link, dredging of Kushiara and Gomti rivers, construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline and several High Impact Community Development Projects in the areas of education, health, water, culture, urban development, disaster management and community welfare. These include projects such as construction of school/college buildings, laboratories, dispensaries, deep tube wells, community centres, renovation of historical monuments/buildings, etc.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to make progress on various development projects initiatives with Bangladesh. This year we expect the inauguration of three major projects: the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline; the Rampal Power Plant; and the Khulna-Mongla rail line. The three High Impact Community Development Projects: (i) reconstruction work at Sri SriRamna Kali Mandir, (ii) five storey women hostel in Sylhet, and (iii) development project at Jamalpur Gandhi Ashram, have been completed in this financial year. The Akhaura-Agartala Rail-Link project has achieved over 50 per

cent physical progress. This project has been delayed due to several reasons, including the impact of COVID-19 on supply chains, resultant adverse economic impact on contractor's cash flow and prolonged and heavy monsoon rainfall resulting in short working period.

We have been making constant efforts through multiple review meetings in close coordination with the Ministry of Railways, the Government of India, for improving the pace of project execution. Despite these challenges, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 300 crore for Bangladesh has been kept at the RE stage due to significant progress achieved in construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline and HICDPs.

India has also extended about USD 8 billion worth of Lines of Credit to Bangladesh, the most for any of our development partners, in three separate credit lines at uniquely concessional terms. The areas include power generation and transmission, rail and road transport, infrastructure creation including creation of economic zones, etc. The first ever defence Line of Credit of USD 500 million has also been extended. Forty-six Projects have been covered under these LoCs, out of which 14 projects have been completed.”

**3.35** The Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project was initiated to provide better connectivity between India and Bangladesh. In their Demands for Grants Reports, the Committee have been firmly recommending that this project should be expedited without any further delay and consequently sufficient funds should be allocated for the same. On the Committee's query, the Ministry provided a detailed note about the present status of this project. The Indian portion of the rail link is funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and implemented by the Ministry of Railways through M/s IRCON. The Bangladesh portion of the rail link is funded by MEA as grant-in-aid and implemented by Government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Railway has appointed an Indian company for construction of the rail link. Bangladesh portion of the project has achieved physical progress of 50% and financial progress of 40%. The Bangladesh portion of the project is delayed due to several reasons including disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic and prolonged and heavy monsoon rainfall resulting in short working period in project area. Multiple review meetings have been conducted by

MEA and by Ministry of Railways to increase the pace of progress. Joint review of the project has been conducted by MEA with concerned Bangladesh officials and PMC, M/s IRCON on 20 Dec 2021.

**3.36** The Ministry also furnished a detailed note on the status of other ongoing developmental projects in Bangladesh.

**India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline-** The 129.5 km pipeline for supply of high speed diesel is being constructed from Siliguri in West Bengal to Parbatipur in Bangladesh. MEA has signed a MoU with Numaligarh Refinery Limited, a public sector company under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for construction of the Bangladesh portion of the India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline in 2018. The project is being executed under a G2G MoU between Gol and Government of Bangladesh. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 346.04 crore and Rs 285.24 crore is under Gol grant assistance of which Rs 162 crore has been spent on the project. The project has achieved a physical progress of 87.3%.

(ii) India has setup **two centres for skill development** at Khulna and Rajshahi in Bangladesh. The tool and die manufacturing unit at Khulna was handed over in August 2019 and the Dairy Processing Unit at Rajshahi was handed over in December 2020. Training of trainer program is ongoing. The total project cost is Rs 9.78 crore.

(iii) **Dredging in Indo-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit & Trade Protocol Connectivity, Sirajganj- Daikhawa & Ashuganj-Zakiganj** - Under an MoU signed in 2017, dredging is undertaken in the Sirajganj-Dhaikhowa stretch of the Jamuna river and Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of the Kushiara river of the India Bangladesh Inland Water Transit & Trade Protocol Routes to facilitate navigation. The cost of the project is Bangladesh Taka 331.39 crore of which 80% is funded through Gol grant (Rs 230.74 crore)

(iv) **High Impact Community Development Projects:** India and Bangladesh signed a bilateral MoU on Indian grant assistance for implementation Of High

Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in 2013. The projects are related to socio-economic development aimed at creating maximum impact for local communities, particularly in the areas of education, health and sanitation, water treatment, urban development, conservation of environmental, sports and cultural heritage, women empowerment, child welfare, community development and livelihood activity. As on date, 72 HICDPs have been completed, while 17 HICDPs are ongoing.

(v) Under **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program** 892 personnel from Bangladesh have been trained in India during the 2016-21 period. In addition to this, more than 3500 ICCR scholarships have been extended to Bangladeshi students so far and 2000 scholarships per year are awarded to ward of Mukti Joddhas. In addition 1000 Suborno Jayanthi scholarships have been announced during Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh in March 2021. Under Gol assistance, Bangabandhu chair has been setup at Delhi University. As part of the Maitree Diwas celebrations, Bangabandhu-Bapu digital exhibition as a travelling exhibition was setup five cities in Bangladesh and in Delhi at a cost of around Rs 3 crore under Gol grant assistance.

(vi) India has also supplied 109 ambulances as **humanitarian aid** to Bangladesh. Further Medical Aid consisting mainly of medicine, PPE kits, test kits, oxygen plant and oxygen concentrator worth Rs. 3.64 Cr. and 33 lakh doses of Covid vaccines worth Rs. 64 Cr. were supplied to assist Bangladesh's fight against Covid.

(vii) On account of the 50<sup>th</sup> year of diplomatic relations and Maitree Diwas celebrations a tri-service marching contingent of Bangladesh Armed Forces was invited for the Republic Day Parade 2021. Full local hospitality was extended to the 122 member delegation from January 12-30, 2021. Similarly a 122 member Indian contingent traveled to Bangladesh to participate in the Victory Day parade in December 2021 and expenditure was incurred on coordination and publicity.



3.37 The Committee observe that there has been an increase in budgetary allocation made under the sub-head 'Aid to Bangladesh' from Rs. 200 crore during BE 2021-22, to Rs. 300 crore BE 2022-23. Some of the important ongoing projects in Bangladesh includes Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project, India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, Dredging in Indo-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit & Trade Protocol Connectivity (Sirajganj- Daikhawa & Ashuganj-Zakiganj), High Impact Community Development Projects, humanitarian aid etc. The Committee are happy to note that despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, considerable progress have been made on the development cooperation initiatives with Bangladesh. The Committee note that in the financial year 2021-22, three projects have been completed under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP). Also, the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline project is scheduled to be operationalized in the year 2022. The Foreign Secretary has informed about three major projects (the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline; the Rampal Power Plant; and the Khulna-Mongla rail line) are expected to be inaugurated this year. The Ministry has also informed that Bangladesh portion of the Akhaura Agartala Rail Link project has achieved physical progress of 50% and financial progress of 40% due to several reasons including disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic and prolonged and heavy monsoon rainfall resulting in short working period in project area.

While the Committee are satisfied with the pace of implementation of most projects in Bangladesh, the tardy progress of Akhaura Agartala Rail Link Project remains a cause of concern. The Ministry should use its good offices to overcome the challenges emanating from the Bangladesh portion of the project. The Committee are optimistic that the three projects that are expected to be operationalized in this fiscal year will be completed within the stipulated time.

*(Recommendation No 17)*

## II. Aid to Bhutan

**3.38** Government of India's aid and assistance programmes in Bhutan are currently covered under both Revenue and Capital Heads with Grants coming under Revenue and Loans coming under Capital sections of the budget. The funds under the Grants head are utilized for various development projects including hydroelectric power projects, development subsidy to Bhutan, subsidy to Power Grid Corporation of India for drawal of power from Chukha hydroelectric project, payment to IOC for supply of kerosene oil and liquefied petroleum gas to Bhutan at a subsidized price, excise duty refund to Bhutan, projects/schemes under Project Tied Assistance framework, scholarships to Bhutanese students in various institutions in India etc.

**3.39** On being asked about the latest loan to grant ratio *vis-à-vis* Bhutan based on BE 2022-23, the Ministry stated that the loan to Grant ratio for the hydropower projects in Bhutan are fixed. For Puna-I, the ratio is 60:40, for Puna-II, the ratio is 70:30 and for Mangdechhu, the ratio is 70:30. The Loan to Grant ratio as per the draft demand of BE 2022-23 of INR 2675.11 Cr [Capital (Loan) of INR 960.37 Cr and Revenue (Grant) of INR 1714.74 Cr] is 35.90:64.10. The majority of Grant component, however, includes projects other than Hydro-power projects. As per past practice, the loan to grant ratio is maintained during the fund releases.

The latest position with regard to Loan: Grant for HEPs is tabulated below:

<b>Name of HEPs</b>	<b>Loan (% of total funds released so far)</b>	<b>Grant (% of total funds released so far)</b>
Punatsangchhu-I	60.00	40.00
Punatsangchhu-II	70.00	30.00
Mangdechhu	70.00	30.00

**3.40** An allocation of Rs. 2124.20 crore was made under this head during BE 2021-22, which was the highest developmental cooperation to our neighbouring country. However, the allocation has been reduced drastically to Rs. 1274.64 and Rs. 1560.01 at

RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 respectively. Explaining the reasons for reduced allocations under this head, the Ministry stated that fund requirements have been lower as all Projects have been affected by COVID-19 related restrictions on movement of men and material, strict lockdown in Bhutan, etc. leading to supply chain issues, labour shortages, etc. Projects are expected to come back on track with smooth and seamless flow of material and human resources, once COVID-19 situation normalizes.

### **Non- HEPs**

**PTA, HICDP:** PTA/ HICDP projects are spread across Bhutan and have also faced COVID-19 restrictions. RGoB has also re-prioritized certain projects and dropped some, re-allocating funds for various project. Further, Ministry has ensured that fund release to the Gol assisted projects in Bhutan are kept aligned with project implementation progress to avoid any parking of funds.

### **HEPs**

**PHPA-I:** The project had suffered geological challenges due to which technical discussions have been underway on the same vs barrage. The fund requirement was low on this account and if the situation is resolved further funds would be requested.

**PHPA-II :** The Project is facing COVID-19 induced effects viz, supply chain issues and labour shortage.

**KHEL:** The contract works for KC-1 (Dam and Diversion works) and KC-3 (Power House and Surge Shaft) packages are yet to be awarded, and hence works on these components have not started. The Project is facing COVID-19 induced effects viz, supply chain issues and labour shortage.

**3.41** When asked whether in the opinion of the Ministry the allocated funds are adequate for the completion/ progress of the projects, the Ministry submitted that the allocations made to respective heads are per as realistic assessment of fund requirement, avoiding parking of funds and complying with *just in time release* principle of financial prudence. Any additional fund requirement would be projected & catered to at the Supplementary grants and RE stage.

**3.42** The details of various ongoing projects in Bhutan along with the fund allocation and time frame for completion and current status are given below:

**HEPs:**

S. No.	Project/ Scheme	Approved Value	Scheduled date of completion	Current Status
1.	Mangdechhu (720 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INR 2896.3 Cr (as per DPR at March 2008 PL)</li> <li>• RCE of INR 4020.63 Cr (Approved in March 2016)</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> RCE of INR 4672.38 Cr (Approved in Sept 2017)</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> RCE of INR 5012.63 Cr (Approved in March 2019)</li> <li>• Completion cost (at August 2019 PL) is currently under examination by the Competent Authority.</li> </ul>	Project has been commissioned. It was inaugurated in Aug 2019 by PMs of India and Bhutan. It has to be handed over to Bhutan.	Physical progress: 100%; Fund released so far: Rs. 5012.63 Cr

2.	Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INR 3514.81 Cr (as per DPR at December 2006 PL)</li> <li>• RCE of INR 9375.58 Cr (Approved in July 2015)</li> </ul>	June 2019	<p>Physical progress- 87.40% (as of Jan 2022);</p> <p>Fund released so far: INR 8107.2971 Cr</p> <p>The project had suffered geological challenges due to which technical discussions have been underway.</p>
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3.	Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•INR 3777.8 Cr (as per DPR at March 2009 PL)</li> <li>•RCE of INR 7290.62 Cr (Approved in July 2016)</li> <li>•2nd RCE (at Jan 2020 PL) is under examination by the Competent Authority.</li> </ul>	2018-19	<p>Physical progress- 91.19% (as of Jan 2022);</p> <p>Fund released so far: INR 7390.62 Cr</p> <p>The Project is facing COVID-19 induced effects viz, supply chain issues and labour shortage.</p>
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4.	Kholongchhu (600 MW HEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INR 3868.870 Cr (DPR cost)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-construction activities in progress.</li> <li>• Concession Agreement was signed on 29 June 2020, paving the way for commencement of Project construction.</li> </ul>	<p>INR 210.4273 Cr has been released by MEA towards DGPC's equity till date.</p> <p>The Project is facing COVID-19 induced effects viz, supply chain issues and labour shortage.</p>
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**Non-HEPs:**

Gol is implementing Projects including Project Tied Assistance and Small Development Projects in Bhutan under the Gol's committed assistance of INR 4500 Cr to Bhutan's XII Five Year Plan for 2018-23 (Approved by Union Cabinet in December 2018). Out of the INR 4500 Cr, INR 2800 Cr have been allocated for Project Tied Assistance, INR 850 Cr for Small Development Projects and INR 850 Cr for Programme Grant. Till date, out of INR 4500, INR 3069.84 has been released under the 12 FYP.

**3.43** Regarding 'Aid to Bhutan', the Foreign Secretary during the course of oral evidence on 28 February 2022 submitted as under:

"Bhutan has traditionally been the largest recipient of India's financial assistance for strategic reasons that the Committee is aware of. Government has made a commitment of Rs 4,500 crores towards Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan period from 2018 to 2023, besides providing Rs.400 crore as transitional Trade Support Facility. This Plan commitment of Rs.4,500 crore comprises Rs.2,800 crore for

Project tied Assistance, Rs.850 crore for Small Development projects and Rs.850 crore for Programme grant.

About 82 projects under Project tied assistance and 524 under High Income Community Development Projects are being implemented which virtually cover all areas of socio-economic development, including agriculture, infrastructure, ICT, health, education, capacity building and culture. Given our unique and special relations with Bhutan, India has also provided extensive assistance in the form of vaccines, essential medicines, medical supplies, test kits, X-ray machines, etc., in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to inform the Committee that among the projects under India's extensive hydropower cooperation with Bhutan, the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project, inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister during his visit to Bhutan in August 2019, is fully operational and has been generating significant export earnings for Bhutan. In this financial year, the tendering process has been completed for major civil work packages of the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project, which is being implemented under a Joint Venture arrangement.

We are addressing the geological challenges faced by the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric project in consultation with the Government of Bhutan. The Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric project has progressed well, albeit with some delays. These delays have been caused due to the very strict COVID 19 restrictions and quarantine conditions during this period in Bhutan which has adversely impacted movement of manpower and supply of materials.

These restrictions have also affected progress in other projects being implemented under our assistance by the Royal Government of Bhutan and have been the major reason for lower utilisation of funds allocated under this head in BE 2021-22. Our initiatives in other areas to foster a knowledge society and a start-up ecosystem in Bhutan have made good progress. Fin-Tech is the new domain of collaboration with Bhutan. Under this, the RuPay Card has been launched in Bhutan and is accepted by merchant establishments as well as issued by banks there. In July 2021, BHIM UPI app was also launched in Bhutan.



This has led to full financial interoperability, which would greatly ease the flow of tourists from both sides. India is also working with Bhutan on the joint development of a small satellite, which is expected to be launched shortly.\

**3.44** The Committee note that there has been a drastic reduction in budgetary allocation under the sub head 'Aid to Bhutan.' The Ministry has informed that fund requirements have been lower as all Projects have been affected by COVID-19 related restrictions and strict lockdown in Bhutan, etc. leading to supply chain issues, labour shortages, etc. The Committee note that about 82 projects under Project tied assistance and 524 under High Income Community Development Projects are being implemented that virtually cover all areas of socio-economic development, including agriculture, infrastructure, ICT, health, education, capacity building and culture. The Committee also note that India has provided extensive assistance in the form of vaccines, essential medicines, medical supplies, test kits, X-ray machines, etc., in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Committee are aware that India shares unique and special relation with Bhutan and the same is reflected in the extensive developmental partnership. Since the COVID-19 situation appears to be normalizing, aid projects are likely to get back on track; it should be ensured that no project is delayed due to lack of fund requirements. The Ministry should seek additional fund requirement, if any, at the RE stage.

*(Recommendation No 18)*

### **III. Aid to Nepal**

**3.45** India-Nepal developmental partnership extends to a wide spectrum of projects, including infrastructure projects in areas of railways, road, electricity transmission lines, police training and vocational training. India is undertaking development of rail links with Nepal for enhancing the ease of movement of people and goods.

**3.46** Under the sub-head 'Aid to Nepal', the budgetary allocation for BE 2021-22 was Rs. 992.00 crore and it was decreased to Rs. 650.00 crore at the RE stage. The allocation under BE 2022-23 is pegged at Rs. 750.00 crore which is 24% less than BE 2021-22. Furnishing the reasons for the decline in allocation under this head during both RE as well as BE Stage, the Ministry stated that timely implementation of ongoing bilateral projects in Nepal is a priority for Government of India. However, there is a decline at budget allocation for RE stage of FY 2021-22 compared to BE projection of FY 2021-22 mainly due to the Covid 19 induced delay. Covid related lockdown/restriction imposed during FY 2021-22 has delayed the physical progress of many of our ongoing projects. Therefore expenditure could not be incurred as projected at BE stage leading to declined projection at RE stage. Further, there were cases where there has been a difference in actual and estimated costs. For instance, under Reconstruction projects, the BE projection was based on the initially estimated costing of the projects. However, the tendered costs of these projects were 20-30% below the estimated cost leading to a revised projection at RE stage.

**3.47** Additionally, some of the major projects under Aid to Nepal budget under the heads such as Earthquake reconstruction and Terai roads are in the advanced stages of completion or have been completed. Hence fund requirement for FY 2022-23 has been low *i.e* INR 750 Crore compared to the current FY 2021-22. However, if additional funds are required for timely implementation of projects, the same will be projected during RE stage.

**3.48** The details of GOI projects in Nepal that have been initiated or completed during the last three financial years are placed below -

**1. Construction of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)**

India and Nepal signed a MoU in August 2005 for construction of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) namely Birgunj, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa in Nepal along the India-Nepal Border under Gol's Grant-in-Aid. Their Status is as under:

**Birgunj** :Completed and handed over to Government of Nepal in March 2018. The project was jointly inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in April 2018.

**Biratnagar** :Completed and handed over Government of Nepal in January 2020. The project was jointly inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in January 2020. Project is currently under Defect Liability Period till April 2021.

**Nepalgunj** :Construction work for ICP at Nepalgunj is under progress. Project is expected to be completed by Feb 2023.

**Bhairahawa** :M/S RITES is PMC for project. Process of selection of contractor for ICP Bhairahawa is expected to commence shortly.

## **2. Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala**

The project for construction of Nepal Bharat Maitri Dharmashala at Pashupati Temple Area Complex was completed in August 2018 and jointly inaugurated by Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on August 31, 2018. The scope of the work included construction of a three storied Dharmashala building with modern amenities for the pilgrims visiting the Pashupatinath temple at the approved cost of Rs 18.56 crores.

**3.49** Apart from above, following major Gol-assisted projects have been completed in Nepal:

- In the financial year 2018-19, the Government completed two major projects, viz.: (a) Integrated Check Post at Birgunj, Nepal in April 2018 at a cost of INR 135.19 crore; and (b) 400-bed Dharamshala at Pashupatinath Temple Complex in Kathmandu, built at a cost of INR 18.56 crore, was completed and inaugurated in August 2018.
- In the financial year 2020-21, 9 out of 14 Terai Roads packages were handed over to Government of Nepal on March 2021. The Government of India funded Terai roads project has helped strengthen road infrastructures in Terai region of Nepal and further boost people to people relationship between the border areas of the two countries.

- In the current financial year, 50000 houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of Nepal were completed and handed over to beneficiaries in November 2021, as part of GoI Earthquake reconstruction assistance. Total cost of the project is US\$ 150 US Million (including grant of US \$ 100 Million and LOC of US \$ 50 Million). Further, Jaynagar- Kurtha segment of Jayanagar-Bardibas cross border rail link has been completed and taken over by Government of Nepal on October, 2021.

**3.50** The major GOI-assisted projects in Nepal initiated during the last three financial years are as follows:

- a) Construction of 02 nos. of cross-border rail links under Phase I is under implementation at Jogbani (India)-Biratnagar (Nepal) and Jayanagar (India)-Bardibas (Nepal);
- b) Final Location Survey for the new broad gauge rail line between Raxaul and Kathmandu is underway at a sanctioned cost of INR 39.72 crores ;
- c) Upgradation of 10 nos. of roads under Terai Roads project is being undertaken under new 'GOI funded-GON implemented' modality at a cost of INR 500 crore. The project is almost complete;
- d) Integrated Check Posts at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa in Nepal are being implemented;
- e) Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic in Hetauda is under construction at a cost of INR 41 crore approx;
- f) Preparation of Tender document for construction of National Police Academy at Panauti, Nepal at an estimated cost of INR 657.45 crore is underway;
- g) Post-earthquake reconstruction work is underway in health, education, and cultural heritage sectors with grant component of US\$ 150 million.
- h) Under the mechanism of Joint Commission on Inundation and Flood Control, the Ministry extends economic assistance every year for the construction of river embankments on cross border rivers flowing from Nepal to India (work on 3 rivers, viz. Kamla, Lalbakeya, Bagmati, was completed in 2018)

- i) Every year, the Ministry extends assistance to High Impact Community Development Projects or HICDPs (formerly Small Development Projects) programme for the implementation of projects each costing less than NPR 5 crore (INR 3.125 crore approx.) in critical sectors such as health, education and community infrastructure development. 46 nos of HICDPs were completed in the last three years.

**3.51** The Ministry also enlisted details of the ongoing development projects in Nepal are as under:

**1. Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link** - The Jaynagar-Kurtha section (34 km) of the link has been handed over to Government of Nepal in Oct 2021 for train operations. Kurtha-Bijalpura section (aapx. 17km) is physically complete and under process for hand over to Government of Nepal. For Bijalpura-Bardibas section (17.4km) Government of Nepal has been requested to hand over the land for construction to be started.

**2. Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link** - The section from Bathnaha-Nepal custom yard (8km) is physically complete and ready for train operations. Work is ongoing on the remaining portion of the link and is likely to be completed by end 2022.

**3. Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic Institue at Hetauda:** Construction is going on since August 2019. Present progress is 51% as on 31 January 2022.

**4. Nepal Police Academy at Panauti:** DPR for the project at the estimated cost Rs. 657.46 was prepared by CPWD and approved by MEA in consultation with GoN. Tender has been floated in last week December 2021 and the final date for bid opening is on 07.03.2022

**5. Raxaul-Kathmandu rail link: Final Location Study (FLS)** for the proposed Raxaul-Kathmandu rail link with Nepal was initiated in October 2020 and is likely to be completed in 2022.

**3.52** In addition, progress and expected timeline for completion of other projects, are tabulated below:

SN	Project	Approved Cost	Timeline / Target	Progress
<b>'Aid to Nepal' budget head</b>				
1.	Integrated Check Post under Phase-II at Nepalgunj, Nepal	INR 147.12 cr (Package-I)	24 months w.e.f. 25.11.2020	Under execution – 20% physical progress
2.	Integrated Check Post under Phase-II at Bhairahawa, Nepal	Rs. 232.48 crore	The implementation of ICP Bhairahawa is recently takenup. The construction period for the ICP is 24 months from the date of commencement of the project.	M/S RITES is PMC for project. Process of selection of contactor for ICP Bhairahawa is expected to commence shortly.
3.	Terai Roads project	INR 500 cr	30 months from date of award of contract	9 out of 14 road packages completed and taken over by Government of Nepal
4.	Post-earthquake reconstruction in housing sector	Rs. 700 crore [US\$ 100 million]	2021 (50,000 houses handed over to beneficiaries)	Physically completed. Financial closure pending.
5.	Post-earthquake	Rs. 350 crore	2023	Ongoing

SN	Project	Approved Cost	Timeline / Target	Progress
	reconstruction in education sector	[US\$ 50 million]	Total 71 educational institutions (schools/library)	
6.	Post-earthquake reconstruction in health sector	Rs. 350 crore [US\$ 50 million]	2023 Total 132 health posts	Ongoing
7.	Post-earthquake reconstruction in cultural heritage sector	Rs. 350 crore [US\$ 50 million]	2023 Total 28 cultural heritage sites identified	Ongoing
8.	Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link	INR 548 cr	3 years from date of award of contract	Phase-I completed and taken over by Government of Nepal. Phase-II works are also complete. Phase-III – Ongoing
9.	Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link	396 cr (DIB approval ongoing)	3 years from date of award of contract	Phase-I completed, waiting to be handed over. Phase-II under execution
10.	National Police	INR 657 cr	3 years from date of	Tender floated by

SN	Project	Approved Cost	Timeline / Target	Progress
	Academy at Panauti		award of contract	Government of Nepal on 22.12.2021. Tender yet to be awarded.
11.	Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic college	41 cr approx including Consultancy fee	24 months w.e.f. 31.08.2019	50% physical progress achieved.
12.	Tanakpur Link Canal	Rs. 80.00 crore		Ongoing
13.	Raxual-Kathmandu FLS study	39.72 cr	18 months w.e.f. 7.10.2021 (date of signing of MoU for FLS)	Ongoing

**3.53** During the deliberations on demands for Grants on 28.02.2022 the Foreign Secretary gave a comprehensive view of India's aid to Nepal as under:

“Nepal follows Bhutan, as one of the largest aid heads with a BE 2022-23 allocation of Rs 750 crores. Our engagement with Nepal is broad-based and includes development partnership projects such as Integrated Check Posts in Nepalgunj and Bhairawaha, rail link projects on Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar routes, small development projects, supply of defence stores, humanitarian/vaccine assistance etc. There has been an underutilisation of funds under the Aid-to-Nepal head due to ongoing logistical and supply constraints owing to the impact of COVID-19.

The political situation in Nepal has also led to delays in some projects. The actual progress of work in all the three post-earthquake reconstruction sectors, mainly health, education and culture, has been significantly slower than



expected. Further, the lockdowns and delays in clearances and land acquisition by Government of Nepal for both the rail link projects and integrated check-posts have constrained our expenditure expectation under this head. Due to Covid-19, there was some delay in holding the Bilateral Consultative Group on Security, leading to delayed finalisation of defence stores requirement, which otherwise formed our expenditure requirement.

With the waning of the current wave of COVID-19, we expect easement of supply chains in the next financial year. Our priority, therefore, is to swiftly move on some of the big development projects such as the Nepal Police Academy at Panauti, ICPs at Nepalgunj and Bhairwaha, post-earthquake reconstruction projects, survey and DPR of Raxaul-Kathmandu Rail Line etc. With robust pace of project execution and expenditure in Q1 of 2022-23, we are confident of efficiently utilising full budgetary allocation under the head and would perhaps request the Ministry of Finance for an additional allocation if so required at the supplementary grant and RE stages.

In the current financial year, 50,000 houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of Nepal were completed and handed over in November 2021. Further, the Jayanagar-Kurtha segment of Jayanagar-Bardibas cross border link has been completed and taken over by the Government of Nepal in October 2021. Also, 46 high impact community development projects have been completed in the last three years. As a part of India's commitment to COVID-19 cooperation, 150 ICU beds were handed over to Nepal in July 2021. Further, Government of India has gifted a medical oxygen plant to Nepal in August 2021 in addition to medical equipment worth Rs. 10 crores to the Nepalese Army.

**3.54 The Committee note that the allocation under the sub head 'Aid to Nepal' is Rs. 750.00 crore for BE 2022-23, which is 24% less than BE 2021-22. The reason for decline in allocation under this head during both RE as well as BE stage is that the physical progress of most of the ongoing projects was slow due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The Ministry has informed that under Gol Earthquake reconstruction assistance, 50000 houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of**

Nepal were completed and handed over to beneficiaries in November 2021. Further, the Jaynagar- Kurtha segment of Jayanagar-Bardibas cross border rail link has been completed and taken over by Government of Nepal on October, 2021. While understanding the Covid induced delays in implementation of project, the Committee are hopeful that there will be a renewed focus on completing ongoing projects and undertaking new projects of mutual interest in the coming year. The Ministry should ensure smooth, expeditious and timely execution of various ongoing projects in Nepal.

*(Recommendation No 19)*

### **III. Aid to Afghanistan**

**3.55** India has been a steadfast partner in reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan despite serious security challenges. The principal focus of India's development assistance to Afghanistan has been to build capacities of Afghan nationals and its institutions for governance and delivery of public service, develop socio-economic infrastructure, secure lives and promote livelihoods.

**3.56** The budgetary allocation under the Head 'Aid to Afghanistan' was Rs. 350.00 crore for BE 2021-22 and it was reduced at RE stage to Rs. 200.00 crore. It has been pegged at Rs. 200.00 crore for BE 2022-23. Stating the reasons for decline in allocation during the RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23, the Ministry replied that Post August 15, 2021, there has been a change in the political landscape of Afghanistan. The current interim set up is not yet recognized by any country. As a contiguous neighbor and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India is concerned about the recent developments in Afghanistan. India has historical and civilizational ties with Afghanistan. Our special relationship with the Afghan people and UNSC Resolution 2593 will continue to guide India's approach to Afghanistan.

**3.57** India's development partnership with Afghanistan includes more than five hundred projects spread across each of the 34 provinces of the country in critical areas of power, water supply, road connectivity, healthcare, education, agriculture and

capacity building. In all, we have invested more than USD 3 billion for the welfare of the people of Afghanistan. The status of completed and ongoing projects with allocation and actual expenditure is as follows -

<b>Completed Project ( In Rs. Crore)</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>
1.	Supply of 1.1 lakh MT (1.7 lakh tonne) of Wheat	445
2.	Supply of 2000 MT of pulses	16.10
3.	Supply of 75,000 MT of wheat	323.00
4.	Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam)	1775.69
5.	Afghan Parliament Building	969
6.	Construction of Power Substation at Doshi & Charikar	186.71
7.	Restoration of Stor Palace	Rs. 38.76
8.	Supply of Medical equipment to IGICH Kabul	Rs. 17.16
9.	Construction of glazed tile plant for Blue Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif	Rs. 0.52

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Projects /Scheme</b>	<b>Expenditure incurred in CFY till Jan 2022</b>
1.	O&M of Afghan India Friendship Dam	00.00
2.	Shahtoot Dam- Additional Tests	00.00
3.	Shahtoot Dam	00.00
4.	Establishment of Agriculture University (ANASTU)	00.00
5.	Agriculture Fellowship	1.26

	Programme through DARE/ICAR	
6.	1000 Scholarship ICCR 2012-16	00.00
7.	1000 Scholarship ICCR 2017-21	55.80
8.	500 Scholarships for ANDSF martyrs Children	00.00
9.	Rehabilitation of 16.9 km Road connecting Band-e-Amir to Bamyán-Yakawlang Highway	00.00
10.	2.38 km road connecting Mazar-e-Sharif Airport to Kabul Char Saraka Road	00.00
11.	Afghan Low cost Housing Scheme	00.00
12.	High Impact Community Development Programmes phase-3	15.00

**3.58** The Committee wanted to know the manner in which the change in regime in Afghanistan impacted our ongoing development projects. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that with the change in the political scenario in Afghanistan majority of countries, including India, have halted their projects in Afghanistan. We are closely monitoring the situation.

**3.59** On being asked whether in the opinion of the Ministry, the reduction in budgetary allocations will impact our vital interests amid the impending political transition in Afghanistan, the Ministry stated that India has committed to continue its engagement with the Afghan people and in view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation, has committed to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. In this regard, India has already provided 500,000 doses of COVID vaccine and almost 13 tons of medical assistance to Afghanistan. In the next financial year (2022-2023), we would continue to

provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, including foodgrains and medical assistance. Moreover, we would also continue to provide ICCR and ITEC scholarships to the Afghan students.

**3.60** The Committee desired to know the manner in which the regime change in Afghanistan will impact India's approach and policy towards Afghanistan. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that as a contiguous neighbor and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India is concerned about the recent developments in Afghanistan. India has historical and civilizational ties with Afghanistan. Our special relationship with the Afghan people and UNSC Resolution 2593 will continue to guide India's approach to Afghanistan. Our immediate priority includes providing of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. In this endeavor, India has committed to provide 50,000 MTs of wheat, essential life saving medicines and COVID Vaccines to the Afghan people as humanitarian assistance. As of now, we have sent several shipments of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan consisting of 4000 MTs of wheat, 500,000 doses of COVID Vaccine, 13 tons of essential life saving medicines and winter clothing.

**3.61** On 'Aid to Afghanistan' the Foreign Secretary made the following submission before the Committee on 28 February 2022:

"India's development partnership assistance of over USD 3 billion to Afghanistan is widely acknowledged. India's development partnership includes more than 500 projects spread across each of the 34 provinces of the country, in critical sector such as power, infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, capacity building etc. Post August 2021 there has been a change in the political landscape of Afghanistan and the current interim setup has not yet been recognised by any country.

Our special historical and civilisational ties with Afghanistan and the Afghan people as well as UNSecurity Council Resolution 2593 would guide our approach to Afghanistan. Notwithstanding the change in the political landscape and decrease in budgetary allocation, India remains committed to providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and the Afghan people. We have continued with medical supplies and will be dispatching 50,000 MT of wheat to the Afghan

people, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and its agencies. Last week, the first consignment of 2,500 MT wheat assistance was sent from ICP Attari to Jalalabad, Afghanistan. We continue to provide scholarships and capacity building for Afghan students/Army personnel who have remained in India.”

**3.62** The budgetary allocation under the head ‘Aid to Afghanistan’ has seen a downward trend from Rs. 350 crore in BE 2021-22 to Rs. 200 crore in BE 2022-23. The Committee note that India’s development partnership with Afghanistan includes more than five hundred projects spread across each of the 34 provinces of the country in critical areas of power, water supply, road connectivity, healthcare, education, agriculture and capacity building. In the given political scenario in Afghanistan, majority of countries, including India, have halted their projects in Afghanistan. The Committee are happy to note that India has been steadily providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people including foodgrains and medical assistance. The Ministry should continuously monitor the situation and continue providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan people.

*(Recommendation No 20)*

#### **IV. Aid to Myanmar**

**3.63** Aid to Myanmar during BE 2021-22 was Rs. 400.00 crore and the same was increased at the RE Stage to Rs. 600.00 crore. For BE 2022-23, allocation has been pegged at Rs. 600.00 crore. When asked about the reasons for increase in allocation under this sub-head, Ministry replied that enhanced allocation under this head at RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 has been made based on realistic assessment of physical progress in projects and pace of expenditure in ongoing projects such as construction/upgradation of Kalewa-Yargi road, road & waterways component of Kaladan project, construction of bridges on TTK Road, Coastal Surveillance System, Border Area Development programs, apart from committed expenditure on training and scholarships.

**3.64** The Committee enquired about the manner in which the ongoing political turmoil will affect our developmental projects in Myanmar. The Ministry stated that the ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar has impacted the pace of implementation of our projects in the country including in Chin State, Sagaing Region and Rakhine State. The Ministry is in constant touch with the concerned authorities in Myanmar to secure their support for ensuring smooth and expeditious implementation of our projects.

**3.65** The various ongoing, completed and under progress projects in Myanmar since the last three financial years are as follows:

1. Trilateral Highway road connectivity Project in Myanmar

India has undertaken two projects in Myanmar under the Trilateral Highway that starts from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar (Total length of 1360 kms) on the request of Government of Myanmar.

(a) Construction of 120 kms of Kalewa-Yagyi road section to highway standard

Construction work in the project is underway since May 2018. M/s National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the project. Current Physical progress is 37% as on 31 January 2022. The work is scheduled to complete by May 2023.

(b) Construction of 69 Bridges on Tamu-Kyigone Kalewa (TKK) section of 150 kms

The project was approved in December 2015 at the estimated cost of 371.58 crore. The appointed contractor was terminated in December 2018 due to unsatisfactory performance. The contractor thereafter approached Manipur High Court, which after hearing the matter dismissed the contractor's appeal and uphold the termination in August 2020. MEA has also released USD 1 million to Government of Myanmar for interim repair and maintenance of the Bridges in September 2020. The DPR for 69 Bridges has been updated on cost and technical parameters. Process for appointment of new Project Executing Agency has been initiated and is likely to conclude shortly.

2. India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS):

India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) in Yangon was originally set up with Gol's financial assistance by CDAC in 2008. In next phase (2014-17) CDAC upgraded hardware of the Centre and accredited IMCEITS as CDAC's Authorised Training Center (ATC). The third phase of the project was completed in 2020 at a cost of Rs 78 lakh. Now the fourth phase of the project (2021-24) has been approved by the Ministry at an estimated cost of Rs.94.5 lakhs and the project is ongoing. A total of 2764 students have graduated from the centre and 80-90 % have got jobs in various IT related companies in Myanmar. The certificates for the courses are issued in collaboration with CDAC and the center is very well received in Myanmar.

3. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), Mandalay:

The Bilateral MoU for setting up of MIIT was signed between India and Myanmar in May 2012. The project was approved in March 2015 at a total cost of Rs 125.15 crore. International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) was appointed as the Project Management Consultant. An Addendum to the Agreement has been signed in August 2020 for extending the agreement with IIITB till November 2021. The MoU for the project has been further extended till May 2023. After more than a year of suspension (since March 2020) due to Covid and internal development in Myanmar, the classes at MIIT finally resumed in May 2021. However, the ongoing situation in Myanmar has further impacted the reopening. Only 7 students out of 82 students in the final year have joined the class. These seven students have cleared exams of their final semester students on July 7, 2021. Given that the project could not be completed by November 2021, a new exit plan for handholding of MIIT by IIITB till May 2023 is under consideration in the Ministry.

4. Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE):

ACARE has been established with Gol's grants assistance of Rs 50.84 Crore through IARI. India's assistance includes supply of equipment, establishment of laboratories, providing technical support by deputing experts and training Myanmar



students and faculty. The project has been extended till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The IARI team and the Mission in Yangon are in the process of transferring the facility to the Yezin Agricultural University before 31st March, 2022.

5. Upgradation of Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin:

Gol’s grant assistance for this project was announced during the visit of our Prime Minister to Myanmar in September 2017. DPR has been prepared by CPWD for a total project cost of Rs. 289.39 Crores with the infrastructure component estimated at Rs. 271.695 Crores and the training component estimated at Rs. 17.69 Crores. Concurrence on DPR was received from Myanmar authorities on 31st of December 2019. The revised total cost of the project is Rs 267.35 Crores. The draft tender document was prepared and approved by CPWD in December 2021 and it was finally handed over to Government of Myanmar by our Mission in Yangon in January, 2022. Myanmar Police Force is expected to float the tender at the earliest.

6. Other Projects

- I. Government of India is supplying of 10000MTs of Rice and 200MTs of Wheat to Myanmar as a humanitarian assistance in current financial year. The project is expected to complete in March 2022.
- II. Technical and financial assistance is being extended to Myanmar for conservation and restoration of damaged structures and paintings of the pagodas in Bagan that were damaged in the earthquake that hit the country in 2016. Archaeological Survey of India has identified 24 structures in 12 pagodas for renovation under the first phase and the work started in January 2020 after which it was disrupted due to Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts are underway to resume work soon.
- III. Upgradation of Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital and construction of 200 bedded Women’s hospital at Monywa were completed in 2019.
- IV. Apart from the major projects above, a large number of small projects have been undertaken under India-Myanmar Border Area Development Programme and

Rakhine State Development Programme. Under a separate project, 20,000 kit bags of relief material were provided to internally displaced persons in Rakhine State.

- V. To promote computer literacy among the youth, India has provided assistance through supplying computers and other associated peripherals to the Sittwe Computer University, under High Impact Community Development Programme. Assistance in supply of 15 tractors and 15 crawler harvesters to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry & Minerals (Rakhine State Government) under HICDP was extended in 2019.
- VI. Government of India has supplied medical equipment, medicines and Covid vaccines worth Rs. 95.69 Cr in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 to assist Myanmar in their fight against Covid-19 pandemic. Government of India is supplying of 10000 MTs of Rice and 200 MTs of Wheat to Myanmar as a humanitarian assistance in current financial year. The project is expected to be completed in March 2022.
- VII. Between 2016-21, under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, 841 personnel from Myanmar have been trained in India. From 2015-20, a total of 391 students from Myanmar have received scholarships through various scholarship schemes of Gol.

**3.66** On being asked, the Ministry furnished a status note on progress of Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT) Project.

Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT) is a strategic connectivity project to connect the eastern ports of India with Myanmar by developing a port at Sittwe on the western coast of Myanmar and linking the Sittwe port with river channel and road to the Mizoram state of India. The project has two components: (i) Waterways component and (ii) Roadways component.

**Waterway-** The construction of port and inland water transport was completed in Dec 2018. Efforts are being made to operationalize the port and IWT terminal. Tender/contract for works required for operationalization of port have been awarded and works are in progress. Port is expected to be operationalized by mid-2022.

**Roadways-** The Road component of KMMTT includes a new greenfield road project of 109.2 km to be built from Paletwa in Myanmar to Zorinpui on India-Myanmar border (Mizoram) to double-lane NH specifications. The work was awarded to EPI-C&C JV [joint venture of Engineers Projects (India) Limited and C&C Construction Co. Ltd.] on 17 March 2017. Current physical progress is 4%. Due to slow progress and bankruptcy of lead partner of JV contractor for road component 'Show Cause' notice for termination has been issued to the JV contractor.

The waterways component comprising of Port and Inland Water Transport (IWT) terminal at Sittwe; IWT terminal and related facilities at Paletwa; navigational channel along Kaladan river from Sittwe to Paletwa; and six self-propelled IWT vessels have been completed. A port operator jointly appointed by the Governments of India and Myanmar, has started maintenance of the Port since February 2020. Efforts for an expeditious completion of the project are underway.

**3.67 The Committee notice that an improved allocation has been provisioned for expenditure on the budget sub head 'Aid to Myanmar.' The allocation during BE 2021-22 was Rs. 400.00 crore, which was increased to Rs. 600 crore during RE 2021-22. BE 2022-23 has also been pegged at Rs. 600 crore. The stated reason for enhanced allocation is based on realistic assessment of physical progress in pace of expenditure in ongoing projects such as construction/upgradation of Kalewa-Yargi road, road & waterways component of Kaladan project, construction of bridges on TKK Road, Coastal Surveillance System, Border Area Development programs, training and scholarships.**

**While noting that the ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar has impacted the pace of implementation of aid projects, the Committee are pleased to observe that the Ministry has remained in constant touch with the concerned authorities in Myanmar to secure their support for ensuring smooth and expeditious implementation of our projects. The Ministry, therefore, should continue making earnest efforts in expeditious completion of ongoing projects in Myanmar, particularly the much delayed Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT).**

***(Recommendation No 21)***

## **V. Aid to African countries**

**3.68** India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation and sharing of development experiences, and is focused on addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The three India-Africa Forum Summits [IAFS I, II & III] in 2008, 2011 and 2015 have further reinforced the development partnership with the continent.

**3.69** Under the Head 'Aid to African Countries', the BE 2021-22 was Rs. 300.00 crore which was reduced to Rs. 200.00 crore during RE 2021-22 stage. During BE 2022-23, the budgetary allocation has been pegged at Rs. 250.00 crore. When asked about the reason for decreased allocations under this head, the Ministry replied that the overall allocation of funds under the Head 'Aid to African Countries' were made with a view to incur expenditure on e-Vidya bharati & Aarogya bharati, setting up/upgrade of various institutes, capacity building training programmes & scholarships (short term and long term), providing medical aid/books/vehicles/food aid and organising events/ seminars/ studies/visits/cultural exchange programmes, etc. as have been committed during the IAFS-I, IAFS-II and IAFS-III and had been ongoing. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic lock-down world over and its many waves throughout the CFY, especially in Africa, most of these activities came to a halt resulting in reduction in utilization and therefore allocation under the Head to Rs. 200 crore at RE 2021-22. While Ministry was able to incur expenditure on ICCR Scholarships and DARE training programmes, medical aid and food aid, the funds mostly projected for setting up of various institutions, training programmes, visits under various programmes for distinguished visitors including to be undertaken by XP Division of the Ministry, could not be utilized, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation and travel restrictions. Due to global outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, regular offline/in-person courses under ITEC Program could not get underway in 2020-21, which was another factor for lesser expenditure this year. Allocation has BE 2022-23 has been pegged at Rs. 250 crore in anticipation of realistic assessment of fund utilization for ongoing projects and commitments to African countries.

**3.70** Several commitments were announced at highest political level in IAFS-III. When asked about the manner in which the Ministry would adhere to such ambitious commitments with slashed budget, the Ministry replied that the commitments announced at the highest political level in IAFS-III were mandated to be implemented during the period 2015-2020. Several of the commitments made during IAFS-III which have been required to be continued during 2021-22 including for setting up of institutions, training/scholarship programmes, are continuing to be implemented. In fulfilling the remaining commitments under IAFS-III, the Ministry will augment its efforts in CFY and the next fiscal year. With the normalisation of the health situation worldwide, additional fund allocation based on realistic assessment of our commitments will be catered to at Supplementary grant stage and RE 2022-23 stage.

**3.71** On the Committee's further query, whether a comprehensive review of all the projects announced so far under India-Africa Summit I and II has been completed in consultation with all the concerned Ministries/Departments. The Ministry replied that All Projects announced under IAFS I and II were reviewed in October 2015 during the IAFS-III Summit held in New Delhi. The Ministry has also been regularly reviewing the progress in various projects in consultation with all concerned Ministries and relevant stakeholders. There is no policy change so far as fulfillment of our commitment in completing the Projects in Africa.

**3.72** Furthermore, the last Mid-term Review Meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Framework of IAFS-III was held in New Delhi on September 11-12, 2019, which comprised representatives from MEA, a Delegation from the African Union and representatives of African Diplomatic Corps including the IAFS Committee in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (ER) in MEA and Ambassador of the Republic of Mali and Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC) of the African Union. The Meeting took stock of the state of implementation of the cooperation areas of the IAFS-III, namely – Economic, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Blue Ocean Economy, Infrastructure, Education and Skills Development, Health, Peace and Security, Multilateral Fora and Monitoring Mechanism. The Meeting also deliberated on

the preparations of the IAFS-IV Summit which was to be held in 2020. While evaluating the progress made in achieving various targets set out by the leaders during the IAFS-III, the Meeting welcomed the tremendous enhancement of overall engagement between India and Africa. The African side, in particular, welcomed the considerable stepping up of visits at the highest level in the last five years (34 outgoing visits by President [13], Vice President [12] and Prime Minister [9] and around 100 incoming visits at ministerial level) and the elevation of bilateral relations with African countries to a much higher trajectory. The AU Delegation acknowledged the status of implementation of various commitments made under IAFS-III through the LoCs, Grants and capacity building initiatives. The Meeting welcomed the status of implementation provided by Indian side, particularly that more than US \$ 6.4 billion of LoCs out of the US \$ 10 billion LoCs committed in IAFS-III have been implemented; Grants assistance of more than US \$ 700 million against committed US \$ 600 million in IAFS-III have been disbursed; and the completion of more than 32,000 slots of training, scholarship and capacity building out of the total commitment of 50,000 slots in IAFS-III.

**3.73** Furnishing the reasons for delay in setting up of projects committed under IAFS-I, II & III, the Ministry stated that the Ministry has faced considerable challenges in the implementation of the proposals to set up institutions in Africa. These include: long delays in decision making on choice of locations by host institutions (by the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities or the countries selected); sub-optimal choice of locations in several cases by host countries; lack of interest/ inability to deliver in several designated host countries; lack of funds with the host countries (mostly LDCs) to provide land/building/running costs as per the terms and conditions of the partnership model; internal conflicts and civil unrest.

Despite these challenges, we have established a total of 8 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Africa. We have also established 7 IT Centers, a CGARD Center, an Entrepreneurship Development Centre, upgraded a Technology Centre and set up several other capacity building institutions. A number of projects are under various stages of implementation. As part of grant assistance, India has also provided medicines, medical equipment, ambulances, vehicles, NCERT books, vehicles, food

grains, etc. to several African countries. Over US \$ 700 million has been incurred on various grant projects in Africa, since IAFS-III.

**3.74** The Committee also wanted to know whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry or at the level of the African Union to oversee the quality and pace of implementation of Projects. In a written reply, the Ministry submitted that there exists a mechanism between the Ministry and the African Union to oversee the quality and pace of implementation of Projects. The last Mid-term Review Meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Framework of IAFS-III was held in New Delhi on September 11-12, 2019 which comprised representatives from MEA, a Delegation from the African Union and representatives of African Diplomatic Corps including the IAFS Committee in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (ER) in MEA and Ambassador of the Republic of Mali and Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC) of the African Union. The Meeting took stock of the state of implementation of the cooperation areas of the IAFS-III, namely – Economic, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Blue Ocean Economy, Infrastructure, Education and Skills Development, Health, Peace and Security, Multilateral Fora and Monitoring Mechanism. The Meeting also deliberated on the preparations of the IAFS-IV Summit, which was to be held in 2020. While evaluating the progress made in achieving various targets set out by the leaders during the IAFS-III, the Meeting welcomed the tremendous enhancement of overall engagement between India and Africa. The African side, in particular, welcomed the considerable stepping up of visits at the highest level in the last five years (34 outgoing visits by President [13], Vice President [12] and Prime Minister [9] and around 100 incoming visits at ministerial level) and the elevation of bilateral relations with African countries to a much higher trajectory. The AU Delegation acknowledged the status of implementation of various commitments made under IAFS-III through the LoCs, Grants and capacity building initiatives. The Meeting welcomed the status of implementation provided by Indian side, particularly that more than US \$ 6.4 billion of LoCs out of the US \$ 10 billion LoCs committed in IAFS-III have been implemented; Grants assistance of more than US \$ 700 million against already committed US \$ 600 million in IAFS-III

have been disbursed; and the completion of more than 32,000 slots of training, scholarship and capacity building out of the total commitment of 50,000 slots in IAFS-III.

**3.75** On the Committee's query, the Ministry furnished the following status note on Pan Africa e-network Project along with the allocation and 'Actuals' for the last 5 years.

1. The e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati Network Project (e-VBAB) project was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2015, for a period of 5 years from 2016-21, with a project cost of Rs. 951.22 crore. The e-VBAB project is a technological upgradation and extension of the earlier Pan Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP). The e-VBAB project provides tele-education and tele-medicine services through the medium of internet using specially developed web-based platforms, as against through Satellite communication in PAeNP. An MoU was signed with TCIL in September 2018, for implementing the project with a project cost of Rs. 865 Cr.

2. Though the Cabinet approved period for implementing the e-VBAB project is from 2016-2021, because of change in implementation modality from satellite based service delivery to internet based service delivery, and the evolving concept of online education in India with UGC approving the first set of Universities eligible to offer online degrees as recent as in January 2020, the e-VBAB project could be launched only in October 2019 and the actual implementation started in January 2020.

3. Within the Cabinet approved period of 2016-21, under tele-education, out of the targeted 15,000 scholarships, 3570 scholarships have been approved during the January 2020, July 2020 and January 2021 academic sessions to students from 19 African countries which signed the MoUs. Tele-Medicine component of the project is yet to be launched. Only Rs. 46.26 Cr was utilized so far out of the project cost of Rs. 951.22 Cr.

4. As the period for implementation of e-VBAB project approved by Cabinet from 2016-21 expired, Division is in the process of seeking necessary approvals



for extending the project beyond 2021 with Revised Cost Estimates and also submitting appraisal and approval Report to Competent authority for approval.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Actuals (Rs. in Cr)</b>
1.	2016-17	Nil
2.	2017-18	Nil
3.	2018-19	Nil
4.	2019-20	Rs. 21.89 Cr
5.	2020-21	Rs. 2.38 Cr
6.	2021-22 (so far)	Rs. 21.99 Cr
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs. 46.26 Cr</b>

**3.76** The Ministry also informed that so far, 19 African countries have signed MoUs with M/s TCIL, the implementing agency, and have been benefitting from the project. There has been time overrun without any cost overrun in the project. As the e-VBAB project period was 5 years from 2016-21, because of continuous change in scope of work of the project due to technological and regulatory changes from time to time, the project could be launched only October 2019 and the actual implementation started in January 2020. Over the last two years, Division could implement only three semesters (January 2020, July 2020 and January 2021) in which 3570 scholarships have been approved. Since the implementation started only in January 2020, as envisaged in the Cabinet approval, the project needs to be implemented for a period of 5 years and hence it needs to be extended till 2025. Due to the cautious approach taken by the Ministry in implementing the project taking into account the evolving technological and regulatory changes, there were huge savings to the tune of Rs. 541 Crore and the projected Revised Cost Estimate for the project is now only Rs. 410 Crore, which will be appraised & approved by the Ministry, including extension of period of e-VBAB. Hence, there has been time overrun without any cost overrun. On the contrary, there have been

huge savings to Government of India. Division is in the process of obtaining necessary approvals for extension of the project period till 2025.

<b>E-VBAB project</b>	<b>Original Time</b>	<b>Original Cost</b>	<b>Revised Time</b>	<b>Revised Cost</b>
	2016-21 (5 years)	Rs. 951.22 Cr	2020-25 (5 years)	Rs. 410 Cr

**3.77** The Committee also desired to know whether any complaints have been received about the functioning of the pan Africa e-network project. The Ministry responded that there have not been any complaints received about the functioning of the project. The project has been running smoothly since January 2020, with an exponential increase in the number of enrollments every new semester as follows:-

<b>Semester</b>	<b>New enrollments</b>
<b>January 2020</b>	23
<b>July 2020</b>	1199
<b>January 2021</b>	2348

**3.78** Emphasizing the importance of Africa, the Foreign Secretary on 28 February 2022 remarked as under:

“Africa is a key foreign policy priority reflected in India funded projects under Lines of Credit, grant projects and capacity building initiatives. Of the USD 10 billion LoC committed in India Africa Foreign Summit-III, more than USD 6.4 billion has been implemented. Grant assistance of more than USD 7 million has already been disbursed with completion of more than 32,000 slots of trainings, scholarship and capacity building out of total commitment of 50,000 slots in IAFS-III.

The overall budgetary allocation under the head has seen suboptimal utilisation of funds. As a result, Budget Estimates of Rs.300crore for 2021-22hasbeenrationalisedtoRs.200croreat Revised Estimate stage. The Ministry has

faced considerable challenges, including long delay in decision making by host institutions, sub-optimal choice of location by host countries, lack of funds with host countries to provide land/building/running cost as per agreement, internal conflicts and civil unrest etc., in implementing projects in Africa.

Funds mostly projected for e-Vidya Bharti and E Arogya Bharti (e-VBAB), for setting up of various institutions, physical training programmes etc. could not materialise due to the pandemic situation and travel restrictions .A review of the implementation structure and modality of e-VBA Baswell as overall costing will need to be done due to completion of project duration as approved by the Cabinet and the pandemic.

A total of 211 LoCs amounting to 12.85 billion US dollars have been extended by the Government to African countries in varied sectors such as power plants, hydroelectricity, power transmission & distribution networks, dams, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, skill development, civil construction etc. Government of India is also undertaking several grant-in-aid projects in Africa such as supply of 27 Midi Buses to Somalia, 10 Ambulances to Tanzania, 5 Ambulances to Mali and CTscan Machine to Liberia.”

**3.79 The budgetary allocation under the sub head 'Aid to African Countries' has been abridged from Rs. 300.00 crore (BE 2021-22) to Rs. 250.00 crore (BE 2022-23). The Ministry has proffered two broad reasons for this reduced allocation - suboptimal utilisation of funds and various challenges like delay in decision making by host institutions, sub-optimal choice of location by host countries, lack of funds with host countries to provide land/building/running cost as per agreement, internal conflicts and civil unrest faced in implementation of projects. The Committee note that the three India-Africa Forum Summits [IAFS I, II & III] in 2008, 2011 and 2015 have further reinforced the development partnership with the Continent. The Ministry has informed that the initial period of e-VidyaBharati and e-Aarogyabharati Network Project (e-VBAB) which was 5 years from 2016-21. However, due to technological and regulatory changes from time to time, the project could be launched only in October 2019 and the actual implementation started in January 2020. The Committee note that a regular and high-level review**

of projects undertaken under various IAFS is carried out in consultation with all concerned stakeholders and policy decisions are taken accordingly.

Keeping in mind the geographical extent and significance of the Africa region, the Committee are disappointed with the drooping allocation and the slow pace of progress in projects under this budget sub-head. The Committee are dissatisfied with the reasons furnished by the Ministry for the reduction in allocation under this sub head. In the considered opinion of the Committee, the budgetary allocation should be reflective of the importance India attaches to this Region. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that enhanced allocation must be provisioned for this head and based on a feasibility study, physical and financial targets should be established for completion of all ongoing projects in Africa.

*(Recommendation No 22)*

**CHAPTER 4**  
**OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS**

After the merger of the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016, the allocation pertaining to the schemes and programmes administered by erstwhile MOIA is now being made under the Head 'Welfare of Overseas Indians'. The budgetary allocations made to various schemes and programmes being implemented by MEA for the welfare and protection of the overseas Indians are as under: -

*(Rs. in crore)*

	<b>Name of Scheme</b>	<b>BE 2020-21</b>	<b>BE 2021-22</b>	<b>BE 2022-23</b>
(i)	Know India Programme	6.00	7.00	7.00
(ii)	Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children	10.00	10.00	10.00
(iii)	Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora	2.00	2.00	3.00
(iv)	Awareness campaign/media plan	11.00	2.00	5.50
(v)	Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)	NIL	NIL	NIL
(vi)	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Celebration	40.00	20.00	10.00

**4.2** A comparative analysis of the budget of the erstwhile MOIA with that of the budget demanded and the budget now earmarked for all the functions/schemes/programmes which are now falling under the MEA, post-merger are as follows: -

*(Rs. in crores)*

<b>Schemes</b>	<b>MOIA</b>			<b>POST MERGER</b>					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Secretariat-General Services	21.94	33.95	19.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Protector General of Emigrants	6.87	6.41	11.30	15.76	14.82	17.09	17.60	20.08	29.02

Indian Centre for Migration	5.00	4.00	3.04	0.10	0.05	2.50	0.50	0.50	0.02
Other Schemes (Other Charges)	12.00	6.00	1.50	3.50	2.00	3.92	4.00	4.00	3.55
Know India Programme	4.00	4.50	8.00	1.50	0.90	5.00	6.00	6.00	7.00
Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children	7.60	8.56	6.50	6.00	4.00	7.00	12.00	10.00	10.00
Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora	0.50	5.00	9.50	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Awareness Campaign/Media Plan	10.00	12.50	9.50	5.54	2.50	11.00	11.00	11.00	2.00
Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill upgradation of Emigrant Worker	0.05	1.00	0.50	0.01	1.00	0.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriage	0.75	1.00	0.10	0.25	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.12
Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra	0.00	20.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	1.00	1.00	1.73
Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	8.00	13.00	7.53	5.00	10.00	10.00	39.12	40.00	20.00
Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra	20.00	15.00	12.00	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	10.00

<b>Total</b>	96.71	130.9 2	108.8 5	57.1 6	46.290	64.02	98.84	146.70	<b>92.44</b>
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**4.3** The details of budget sought, allocations made and actual during the last 3 years are as follows: -

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Budget								
		2018-19			2019-20			2020-21		
		Sough t	Allocatio n (FE)	Actua l	Sough t	Allocatio n (FE)	Actua l	Sough t	Allocatio n (FE)	Actual
(i)	Know India Programme	5.00	7.00	7.70	6.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	0.30	0.14
(ii)	Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children	7.00	9.00	8.75	12.00	10.00	5.35	10.00	8.00	8.00
(iii)	Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora	2.00	2.00	1.54	4.00	2.00	1.30	2.00	2.00	0.62
(iv)	Awareness campaign/ media plan	11.00	14.50	13.00	11.00	2.39	2.00	11.00	2.00	0.00
(vi)	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Celebration	15.00	24.00	22.12	18.00	9.12	9.15	50.00	22.00	17.82

*[Note:- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, travel restrictions and lockdowns hampered the execution of programmes & schemes in India & in Missions abroad throughout FY 2020-21. As a result, the actual expenditure could not be made in keeping with the allocation.]*

**4.4** While tendering evidence before the Committee, the Foreign Secretary made the following submission related to Welfare of Overseas Indians:

“The Ministry has been making concerted efforts towards welfare of Overseas Indians, including deepening of engagement with the Indian community abroad. This has been sustained by programmes such as the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Know India Programme, Pravasi Bharatiya Teerth Darshan Yojana, Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, Scholarship Programme for diaspora children, etc. Relief to distressed NRI women will be provided under Nirbhaya Fund, the newly established framework. As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, virtual theme-based futuristic conferences and online Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Quiz with priority thrust on deeper engagement with diaspora youth have been organized this year.

Conferences on Girmitiya, Natural Resources, Youth in Knowledge Economy and Diaspora in EU have been the new initiatives under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Portals such as RISHTA, which has been launched and Global Indian Students Portal, which will be shortly launched, our efforts aimed at providing updated information regarding diaspora and students respectively.”

**4.5** The Foreign Secretary further added:

“The Government has a robust institutional framework for the welfare, safety and protection of Indian migrants working abroad. The e-Migrate system, Pre-Departure Orientation Programme, MADAD portal, Indian Community Welfare Fund, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras, help lines at Indian Missions and Posts, Shelter Homes, etc. are some mechanisms that assist Indian workers abroad. The experience of operating these systems and the data they provide were of great utility during the pandemic. Portals such as SWADES (Skilled



Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) created a database of returning Indian nationals based on their skill sets and experience.

Linking this database with Skill India's ASEEM (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping) portal has proved to be useful. Protectorate of Emigrant offices have been opened in 11 cities with the aim of gradually covering all States. Pre-departure Orientation training has been expanded to 31 such centres across the country, wherein more than one lakh emigrant workers have been imparted training. This training is being imparted in hybrid module since April, 2021, although I was happy to attend one of these programmes in our office in Mumbai.”

**4.6** A new budgetary head- Nirbhaya Fund has been created. When asked the Ministry provided a detailed Note about this Fund, including the allocations made during BE 2022-23. Nirbhaya Fund was created for empowerment, safety and security of women and girl children. In March, 2021, the Ministry with Ministry of Women and Child Development decided to set up One Stop Centres (OSC) in the respective jurisdictions of 9 of our Missions/Posts abroad (where there is a sizeable Indian community) for distressed Indian women. 7OSCs with provision of Shelter Homes would be setup in Bahrain, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh & Jeddah and two OSCs without Shelter Homes would be setup in Singapore and Toronto. A new budget head for the Nirbhaya fund for MEA has been created & a fund amounting to Rs. 5 Crore has been allocated for the purpose. The guidelines to be followed by the Missions/Posts abroad for establishment and operation of the One Stop Centre are also being worked upon.

**4.7** On being asked the Ministry elaborated on the constraints faced in execution of the schemes and programmes related to Overseas India Affairs after the merger of erstwhile MOIA with MEA. The following schemes were closed between 2014 to 2018:-

- (i) India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI): It was closed in March 31, 2018 to avoid duplication of work and to enhance the efficiency of other schemes.

- (ii) Study India Programme (SIP): It was closed in 2016 given the similarity of SIP with KIP (Know India Programme).
- (iii) Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC): Following merger of MOIA with MEA, functions related to promotion of investments by overseas Indians have shifted to DPIIT, and OIFC was closed down on 30 March 2017 with Cabinet approval.
- (iv) Tracing the Roots: This scheme was reviewed in 2016-17 and it was observed that performance of the scheme was unsatisfactory with only 18 applications in 8 years. The scheme has therefore been closed with EAM's approval.

**4.8** On being asked about the progress made regarding evaluation of various schemes and programmes on the Indian Diaspora, the Ministry stated that as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in its 8th and 11th report, a Working Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (CPV&OIA) for evaluation of various Schemes and Programmes being undertaken for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora. The 1st meeting of the Working Group was held on 22 December 2021. The Working Group went through the various Schemes ongoing as well as those, which had been closed subsequent to Overseas Indian Affairs coming under MEA from the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). The 2nd meeting of the Working Group will be held shortly and thereafter a report by the Working Group will be submitted to the Ministry.

**4.9** The welfare schemes for the overseas Indians such as Indian Community Welfare Fund, Pre-Departure Orientation Training and Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna are progressing well. The detail thereof is as under:

- A) Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT):As on December, 2021, 1,08, 657 workers have been trained. The program has been made available in online mode since April 2021.
- B) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF): Since 2014 till December 2021, around INR 484 crores of fund has been utilized. During this period around

2,89,800 Indians were extended assistance. Balance fund available as on 31st December 2021 is around INR 479 crores.

C) Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY): Since its inception, till December 2021, about 69 lakh policies were issued.

**4.10** When asked about the manner in which the Indian Diaspora is being urged to use their expertise time and investment in all their endeavours to strengthen the link between them and their origin country India, the Ministry replied that through Indian Missions and Posts abroad it regularly engages with the Indian diaspora in seeking its time, expertise and investment to develop a strong bond between the members of the diaspora and their origin country. Through PBD Convention, PBD Conferences and every Regional PBD, Ministry of External Affairs has devised a mechanism wherein the diaspora gets a platform at regular intervals to build linkages with India.

**4.11** The Committee were also keen to know about new advances and ventures being explored by the Ministry for engaging Indian Diaspora, the Ministry responded that Programmes such as Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Know India Programme (KIP), and Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY) are relatively new additions to the Ministry's initiatives in engaging the Indian diaspora. We have further added a new programme called "Videsh Sampark" to enhance the scope of the engagement with States to cover investment, trade and tourism. Ministry has also launched an outreach platform called the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal (RISHTA portal) to have a direct connect with the Indian Diaspora across the Globe. Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, an online AKAM Quiz for young diaspora Indians & foreign youths has been organized to further increase our engagement with them. Various innovative conferences such as the Girmitya Conference & Conference on Future of Natural Resources have been held for the first time by the Ministry to tap into the Girmitya Diaspora connect and the scientific Diaspora community. There is an added impetus to engage with the Youth Diaspora working in the knowledge sector.

**4.12** COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted all aspects of our existence, the Ministry was asked to state the problems faced by Overseas Indian during such times along with the mechanisms that have been established to deal with it. The Ministry replied that to facilitate return of Indian nationals stranded in various countries due to restriction imposed in the wake of pandemic, the Vande Bharat Mission was commenced on 7th May, 2020. During current COVID-19 pandemic, our Missions/Posts abroad proactively helped distressed/stranded Indian nationals, from ICWF in accordance with extant guidelines for evacuation, boarding & lodging, air passage to stranded Indians and emergency medical aid. Around INR 45.78 crores were utilized to extend assistance to more than 1,73,618 Indians till end December 2021.

**4.13** Further, with the aim of making the best of our skilled workforce returning to the country due to the ongoing pandemic, the Government of India launched an initiative SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. SWADES, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs, aimed to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skill sets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies. This was done to facilitate reintegration of migrant workers into the labour market and promote effective employment opportunities. The data received on SWADES is integrated with Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee and Employer Mapping (ASSEM) portal of MSDE to connect employees with Employers registered on ASEEM portal.

**4.14** In view of the geographical outreach of Indian citizens in various countries across the globe, there have been situations where they have got stuck in conflict zone. The details about evacuations efforts carried out by the Ministry in foreign soil for safety of Indian nationals abroad in past five years are as follows:

- Following deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan, evacuation of Indian nationals was the main priority of the Government. Under the Operation Devi Shakti, a total of 669 people were evacuated from Afghanistan including 448 Indians, 206 Afghans (including Hindu Sikh minority members) and 15

people of foreign nationalities (Nepal, Lebanon and Uganda). These people were evacuated in seven flights; 6 flights operated between August 16 to 25, 2021 and the last flight on December 10, 2021. During the Operation Devi Shakti, both Indian Air Force and commercial flights were used which included six IAF flights (C-17 and C-130), two Air India flights and 1 Kam Air flight. Evacuation from Afghanistan under these circumstances was a difficult and challenging exercise mainly due to fast deteriorating security situation in the country which prevented people from reaching airport and led to extreme chaos at airport premises. It required coordination with multiple countries (for safety of evacuees, for over-flight clearances, and airport facilitation), and domestically with multiple agencies and Ministries (for flight operations, following Covid guidelines and safety and security of evacuees).

- So far evacuation of Indian Nationals from Ukraine is concerned the Government of India undertook a massive exercise to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine. Over 21000 Indian nationals have returned from Ukraine till date. A number of civilian and Indian Airforce flights were arranged under 'Operation Ganga' at Gol cost. The evacuation exercise involved a whole of the Government approach with Prime Minister himself taking regular coordination meetings and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) taking the lead role. Prime Minister spoke to Presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Slovakia to ensure safe return of Indian nationals from Ukraine. External Affairs Minister also spoke to Foreign Ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova in this context. Prime Minister had sent 4 Union Ministers as Special Envoys to personally oversee the evacuation efforts through Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Moldova to facilitate the departure of stranded Indians. The evacuation exercise involved a number of pro-active steps taken by MEA and its Missions in Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova - fresh registration of Indian nationals in Ukraine in January 2022; issuance of regular advisories; removal of restrictions on air-bubble arrangement with Ukraine; setting-up of 24x7 Control Room in MEA and the Missions in Kyiv and its neighbouring countries; deployment of teams of Russian speaking officers in

neighbouring countries of Ukraine as well as various other measures in this direction. Missions in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries also arranged accommodation, transport and food for the stranded Indians to the extent possible in coordination with various organizations including Indian community. Given that the evacuation involved taking out citizens from various active conflict zones in Ukraine, the biggest challenge was to organize safe movement of Indians from these zones to safer zones in the western parts of the country. The imposition of curfews in conflict zones, martial law in Kyiv and shelling in many of the conflict areas created lot of safety and security issues. Moreover, the Indians were scattered throughout the country including a number of them in the eastern part, which was under attack. Due to closure of the air-space from the day of the conflict, the evacuation was not possible through air. Consequently, it was decided to evacuate Indians from the western borders of Ukraine through its neighbouring countries of Romania, Slovakia, Moldova, Hungary and Poland. However, there was a heavy rush of Ukrainians and other foreign nationals towards the western borders and means of transport were far less than the demand. According to UN, more than 2 million people have fled Ukraine and more than 1 million have been internally displaced. Massive outflow of Ukrainians and nationals of other countries caused over-crowding at the border check-points leading to increased delays and inconveniences caused to people. Crisis Management Plans are devised by Missions / Posts taking into account all factors. In case of outbreak of conflict or any other exigencies, the evacuation of Indian citizens is planned on a case-to-case basis. Evacuation is dependent on a number of factors like number and location of Indian nationals within the country, security situation on ground and availability of evacuation/exit routes within the country and those with neighboring countries.

**4.15 The erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MoIA), which was primarily responsible for protection and welfare of overseas Indians, was merged with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016. Since then, the Overseas Indian Affairs Division within the MEA has been dealing with issues relating to engagement with Indian Diaspora. Observing a general trend of ad hocism and**

arbitrariness in budgetary allocation to schemes and programmes related to welfare and protection of the overseas Indians, the Committee had been steadily recommending the Ministry to accord requisite fiscal space and importance to such a critical aspect of its responsibility. The Committee are disappointed to note that budgetary allocation for schemes/programmes related to welfare of overseas Indians during the current fiscals has either been reduced or kept constant. The Ministry's assertion that COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions and lockdowns have hampered the execution of programmes & schemes in India & in Missions abroad have been duly noted. The Committee observe that a Working Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (CPV&OIA) for evaluation of various Schemes and Programmes for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora. The Committee welcome the creation of a new budget head for the Nirbhaya Fund with an allocation of Rs. 5 Crore for empowerment, safety and security of women and girl children. In this regard, the Ministry has informed that the guidelines to be followed by the Missions/Posts abroad for establishment and operation of the One Stop Centre are also being worked upon.

Taking a serious view of the unpredictability and low budgetary allocation for Overseas Indians, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should prepare a vision for reaching out to all Indians abroad in a more committed manner and project improved budgetary allocations for the same. The Committee would like to be apprised about the findings of the Report of the Working Group in six months. With regard to the newly created Nirbhaya Fund, the Committee desire that guidelines for establishing the One Stop Centres are chalked out without any further delay so that the disbursal from the fund does not suffer.

*(Recommendation No. 23)*

4.16 The Committee note that the Ministry of External Affairs through Indian Missions and Posts abroad regularly engages with the Indian diaspora in seeking its time, expertise and investment to develop a strong bond between the members of the diaspora and their origin country. Also, there exists a robust

institutional framework for the welfare, safety and protection of Indian migrants working abroad, which inter alia includes e-Migrate system, Pre-Departure Orientation Programme, MADAD portal, Indian Community Welfare Fund, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras, help lines at Indian Missions and Posts, Shelter Homes, etc. The Ministry has informed that Protectorate of Emigrant offices have been opened in 11 cities with the aim of gradually covering all States. The Committee note that to facilitate return of Indian nationals stranded in various countries due to restriction imposed in the wake of Covid pandemic, the Vande Bharat Mission was started on 7th May, 2020. Around INR 45.78 crores were utilized from ICWF to extend assistance to more than 1,73,618 Indians till end December, 2021. SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) initiative was launched to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.

The Committee applaud the efforts made by the Ministry to proactively help distressed/stranded Indian nationals during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As the Pandemic has created significant uncertainties for a certain section of Overseas Indians, particularly migrant workers and students, the Committee are hopeful that the Ministry will coordinate with other line Ministries and ensure that such Indians are suitably rehabilitated and assisted in their future career options. The Committee also desire that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) should be used proactively for wider dissemination of various schemes and programmes that are being implemented by the Ministry for welfare of Indians abroad.

*(Recommendation No. 24)*

4.17 In view of the number and spread of overseas Indians, there is a high possibility of them getting stranded in a crisis situation. The recent political crisis in Afghanistan and conflict in Ukraine is a gross reminder about the implications on safety and security of Indian nationals in such a volatile situation. The role played by the Ministry in Afghanistan and Ukraine in the recent past has been commendable. The Committee, therefore, feel that evacuation preparedness has



emerged as a significant issue. The Committee are aware that during outbreak of conflict or any other exigencies, the evacuation of Indian citizens is planned on a case-to-case basis and evacuation is dependent on a number of factors. The Committee desire that a database of Indian nationals abroad may be prepared and updated on a regular basis for emergency situations. Furthermore, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for evacuation of Indian nationals stranded in exigencies must also be chalked out and the same may be made available at all Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The Committee would like to be kept informed about steps taken in this direction.

*(Recommendation No. 25)*

## CHAPTER 5 ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP

The Ministry of External Affairs is headed by the External Affairs Minister. He is assisted in the discharge of his functions by the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Foreign Secretary oversees the functioning of the Ministry at the official level. The MEA HQs in New Delhi is organized into Territorial and Functional Divisions, with Territorial Divisions overseeing and managing bilateral relations with specific foreign countries, structured regionally. Moreover, following the merger of the erstwhile MOIA with MEA, the administrative and Secretarial functions have been integrated in MEA's organizational set up.

**5.2** Allocations related to organizational structure is provided in the Major Head 'External Affairs' that caters to Foreign Service Institute, expenditure on India's diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad, Central Passport Organisation and Protector General of Emigrants, welfare of overseas Indians, hospitality to dignitaries, contributions to UNO and other international organizations, grants to autonomous bodies and institutions etc.

**5.3** The sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4474, out of which, one third of the manpower is deployed in Headquarters and are assigned different divisions from time to time, based on functional requirements.

**5.4** On being asked, the Ministry furnished the data on the number of women employees (at both Gazetted and non-Gazetted positions), The numbers are as follows:

(As on 8 February, 2022)

S. No	Male	Female	Total
Gazetted			
1	1677	425	2162
Non-Gazetted			
2	1537	219	1756

Currently, India has 15 Lady Officers posted as Heads of Missions.

**5.5** Elucidating on the steps taken by the Ministry to provide gendered perspective to various schemes/programmes and policies of the Ministry, it stated that the recruitment of IFS officers is via a competitive examination conducted by UPSC. There is no gender based reservation in direct recruitment to IFS or in induction and promotion to IFS from the feeder grade of Grade I of IFS Branch B. However, the Service provides equal opportunities to both men and women and maintains a steady gender balance, with increased number of women officers entering the Service in recent years. Gender equality is more a common practice than an exception as far as the IFS is concerned.

**5.6** When asked about the reason behind such a skewed gender representation, the Ministry responded that recruitment to various positions in the Ministry is done through UPSC/SSC, which is strictly based on merit basis and under extant reservation policies of Government of India.

**5.7** MEA has been utilizing external expertise in the form of subject specialist consultants. The Committee wanted to know in details about the subject specialist consultants working in the various divisions of the Ministry along with their area of expertise and years of service. In a written reply, the Ministry submitted that there are 58 Consultants currently engaged by the Ministry. Research activities are carried out by these consultants as per the functional requirements of the respective Division where they are deployed in. There is no provision/way to absorb these consultants in the Ministry. Recruitment to permanent posts in the Ministry of External Affairs is done through Direct Recruitment or by promotion from feeder cadres.

**5.8** The Ministry also enumerated the research activities undertaken by these consultants during the past five years. Over the years, Consultants have been involved in various research activities undertaken by PP&R division. Currently, there are ten consultants deployed with PP&R Division. They are engaged in the preparation of Daily Reports, which summarise the significant global and regional developments. These Reports are being circulated within MEA and across missions/posts on a daily basis. The Consultants regularly participate in various Seminars/webinars/Conferences/Dialogues, organised by Think-tanks on significant subjects pertaining to international relations.

The reports of these events are being compiled into Think-Tank Compendium, which is circulated within policy making circle. The Compendium serves as a vital bridge between the policy-making arena and the wider Think-Tank and strategic community. The document provides a comprehensive outlook on the conversations and discussions taking place in the Indian foreign policy community.

Consultants also write various research papers and policy briefs which are circulated to our divisions in MEA and missions/Posts abroad. The consultants also provide inputs that are used for drafting speeches for the top leadership at the Ministry. Consultants are also actively engaged in compiling the Ministry's Annual Report. Some other day-to-day and miscellaneous tasks include organising and drafting reports & talking points for Policy Planning Dialogues conducted with counterpart countries; power point presentations on thematic issues, etc.

**5.9** The Committee wanted to know whether there is a proposal to absorb these consultants in the Ministry. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that there are 58 Consultants currently engaged by the Ministry. Research activities are carried out by these consultants as per the functional requirements of the respective Division where they are deployed in. There is no provision/way to absorb these consultants in the Ministry. Recruitment to permanent posts in the Ministry of External Affairs is done through Direct Recruitment or by promotion from feeder cadres.

**5.10** Over the years, the Committee have highlighted the issue of human resource constraints within the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry has informed that sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4474 out of which, one third of the manpower is deployed in Headquarters and are assigned different divisions from time to time, based on functional requirements. As regards the number of female employees in the Ministry, the percentage is 19.65 % at Gazetted level and 14.21% in Non Gazetted level. The Committee also note that only 15 woman officers are posted as Head of Missions. On further probing, the Ministry informed that there is no gender based reservation in direct recruitment to IFS or in induction and promotion to IFS from the feeder grade.

The Committee find that the data relating to sanctioned strength of MEA appears to be inconsistent. As per the Ministry, the sanctioned strength was 8951 in 2020 and 4474 in 2021. The Ministry is advised to be meticulous and cautious in furnishing replies. Over the issue of skewed gender representation within MEA, the Committee would reiterate its earlier recommendation that the Ministry should ensure improvement in internal practices on occupational equality including careers progression, promotion, training and appointments to higher ranks. The Ministry should also undertake a thorough and comparative cross-service analysis of the reason behind the skewed gender intake ratio and apprise the Committee about the findings of the same.

*(Recommendation No. 26)*

5.11 The Committee had welcomed the decision to the Ministry to utilize external expertise in form of subject specialist Consultants since 2015. The Committee note that currently there are 58 Consultants engaged by the Ministry and they carry out research activities as per the functional requirements of the respective Division where they are deployed in. However, the Ministry has informed that there is no provision/way to absorb these consultants in the Ministry. In the considered opinion of the Committee, having subject specialist Consultants has been a progressive step as it will lead to both quantitative as well as qualitative productivity. The Committee feel that the absence of provision for absorbing the subject specialist Consultants within the MEA will act as a constraining factor in getting senior experts. The Committee, therefore desire that the Ministry should explore the possibility of absorption of some of the subject specialist experts for attracting quality experts and also opening of better career opportunities for senior experts within it.

*(Recommendation No. 27)*

### **Training**

5.12 The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) was established in 1986 by the Government of India primarily to cater to the professional training needs of the

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers inducted directly via the UPSC every year. It conducts in-service training for Indian Foreign Service Officers and other MEA personnel, courses for foreign diplomats, and other professional training courses. The budgetary allocation under the sub-head was Rs. 25.76 crore during BE 2021-22, which was reduced to Rs. 16.44 crore during RE 2021-22. An outlay of Rs. 23.48 crore has been made during BE 2022-23.

**5.13** Despite an increase in demand for training, the allocation under this sub-head has remained stagnant. When asked whether in the opinion of Ministry, such a mismatch would adversely impact our capacity building measures, the Ministry stated that there was a substantial increase (over 70%) in allocation under this sub-head between FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20. Since FY 2019-20 till the CFY, funds allocated have been sufficient to meet our capacity building measures. Impact of COVID19 on training programs and capacity of increased expenditure cannot be overstated, in context of last 2 Financial Years.

**5.14** The Ministry also provided the details of training programmes conducted for Indian diplomats/officials and foreign diplomats/officials during the past three financial years are given separately in **Annexures III and IV**, respectively.

**5.15** The following has been the Actual total expenditure incurred by SSIFS during the past three financial years:

<b>Total Actual expenditure (in INR Crores)</b>	
2018-19	23.82
2019-20	25.28
2020-21	8.28

There was a gradual increase in expenditure incurred for two consecutive financial years (FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20). This was on account of introduction of a number of new training programmes for both Indian civil servants and foreign diplomats. However, since FY 2020-21, there has been a reduction in the number of in-person

training programmes, primarily those for foreign diplomats due to COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns and international travel restrictions. This has resulted in a decline in expenditure incurred since FY 2020-21.

**5.16** With regard to the measures have been put in place to incorporate feedback from trainees, the Ministry stated that Feedback for each course is gathered and analysed at two levels. During the course itself, participants give a written feedback on all sessions and speakers. At the end of each course, the participants give their overall written feedback and suggestions about various aspects of the course. A feedback session (in-person or virtual) is also held for the participants at the end of the course which is chaired by the Dean with participation of Joint Secretary and Course Coordinators at the SSIFS where the participants share their feedback with them. Feedback from trainees is considered carefully and SSIFS endeavours to incorporate valuable suggestions from the trainees to the extent possible.

**5.17** On being asked whether there have been instances of non-conducting of any regular training programme during the last three years, the Ministry specified that all regular training programmes were conducted during the past three financial years. Since FY 2020-21, a few courses for Foreign Diplomats (which are always scheduled in consultation with the participating country) have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions.

**5.18** The Committee also wanted to know whether there is any proposal to introduce new training programmes or modify existing framework for training programmes during 2022-23, the Ministry responded that SSIFS has been closely working with other GoI Ministries, Departments, State Governments and other Central Training Institutes for conducting training and familiarization programmes, and would continue to do so in 2022-23. SSIFS would also continue its recently introduced Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats in 2022-23.

**5.19** **The Committee are aware that Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) conducts in service training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers and other MEA personnel, courses for foreign diplomats and other professional**

training course. The budgetary allocation under the sub-head was Rs. 25.76 crore during BE 2021-22, and has been marginally reduced to Rs. 23.48 crore during BE 2022-23. It is understandable that the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns and international travel restrictions have resulted in a decline in expenditure incurred under this sub head since FY 2020-21. The Committee note that measures have been taken for incorporating feedback from the trainees. The Committee observe that despite an increase in demand for training, the allocation under this sub-head has remained stagnant and can adversely impact our capacity building measures. The Committee are hopeful that with the easing down of Covid related restrictions, training of foreign diplomats will increase and the budgetary allocation to Ministry of External Affairs should also be enhanced adequately.

*(Recommendation No. 28)*



## **CHAPTER 6**

### **ASSISTANCE TO AUTONOMOUS BODIES & INSTITUTIONS**

Allocation under this head is towards Ministry's Grants-in-Aid to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), Society for Research and Information System for Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) and other institutions such as International society for International Law. The allocations made to the institutions are shown in the table:-

*(Rs. in Crores)*

<b>Autonomous Bodies and other Institutions</b>				
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>BE 2021-22</b>	<b>RE 2021-22</b>	<b>BE 2022-23</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>ICCR</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>239.74</b>	<b>320.00</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>ICWA</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>14.43</b>	<b>14.81</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>RIS</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>23.08</b>	<b>14.59</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>India Centre for Migration</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Other Institutions</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>5.90</b>	<b>4.50</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>333.14</b>	<b>283.15</b>	<b>354.90</b>

#### **I. INDIAN COUNCIL OF CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR)**

**6.2** Established in 1950, ICCR is a society registered in the year 1957 under Society Registration Act 1860. ICCR functions under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). ICCR is governed by its Constitution. An allocation of Rs. 320 crore has been made in BE 2022-23 for ICCR. The Ministry specified the major activities for which enhanced allocation has been made:

- Incoming Exhibitions
- Distinguished Visitors Programme
- Academic Visitors Programme

- Incoming Cultural Delegation
- Bust & Statue
- Gen Next Democracy Network

**6.3** The details of budgetary allocations sought and actual allocations made to ICCR during the last three financial years are as under:

*(Rs. In Crores)*

Year	BE		RE		Actual
	Demand	Allocation	Demand	Allocation	
<b>2018-19</b>	309.94	255.00	286.18	235.00	235.00
<b>2019-20</b>	330.79	250.00	310.83	250.00	250.00
<b>2020-21</b>	389.22	290.00	260.00	255.00	217.50
<b>2021-22</b>	300.00	300.00	239.74	239.74	204.16*

\*Up to January 2022

**6.4** When asked about the reasons for reduction in allocation RE 2021-22 and the activities which were impacted due to reduced allocation for ICCR, the Ministry replied that the overall reduction of 20% was applied in allocated BE for 2021-22 of Rs. 300.00 cr. due to curtailment in activities because of Covid 19 and as per instructions from Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for effecting overall economy on Establishment expenditures.

**6.5** The Committee were curious to know whether in the opinion of the Ministry the allocated amount is sufficient to meet the expanding activities of ICCR. The Ministry in a written reply submitted that BE 2022-23 allocation of Rs. 320.00 crore has been made for ICCR. There is always a demand for opening of new cultural centres given the number of such centres opened by other countries. Also the number of activities over the period has grown up and many new activities like celebration of International Day of Yoga and Generation Next Democracy have been added in the regular activities of the Council. The allocations to ICCR are made based on realistic assessment of programs, activities, capacity of utilization of funds, utilisation pattern in past and current financial

year. Ministry will adequately cater to additional requirement of funds, based on ICCR's plan of expansion of centres, its programs & activities. The overall guiding approach to allocation remains Outcome-centric instead of Outlay-centric.

**6.6** The details of expenditure of ICCR for the last three financial years are as follows:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>FY Year</b>	<b>INR (figure in Crore)</b>
1	2018-19	231.92
2	2019-20	260.92
3	2020-21	190.10

**6.7** The Committee further enquired about the availability of extra budgetary resources is available with ICCR and efforts that are being made to generate additional resources. The Ministry responded that ICCR is fully funded by MEA through Grants-in-Aid. Apart from a small and insignificant amount from ICCs abroad on account of fee receipt from local students, ICCR has no other source of funding and therefore, adequate budgetary allocations for carrying out ICCR's objective, including soft power projection will have to come from the Government.

**6.8** The mandate of ICCR, as informed by the Ministry, is to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and their people; and to deepen all round relations with nations.

**6.9** The brief activities of the Council includes the following:

Visitors Programme: wherein ICCR implements two important programmes, Distinguished Visitors' Programme (DVP) and Academic Visitors Programme (AVP). ICCR has also started a new Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme under which young rising stars of the country's political parties (Ruling Party, Principal Opposition Party and from other parties , regional leaders, Mayors etc.)

including rising figures / influencers in business / start-ups, media etc are invited to India.

Chairs programme: Under the Chairs programme, ICCR establishes chairs in universities of various countries. Chairs have also been established under CEP and EEP and administered by ICCR.

ICCR Awards: ICCR has instituted some awards (i) Distinguished Indologist Award, (ii) World Sanskrit Award and (iii) ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award and (iv) a new Award for Promotion of Buddhist Studies .

Outgoing Cultural Delegations (OCD): ICCR sends performing artistes and groups to overseas countries to participate in various cultural events.

Incoming Cultural Delegations (ICD): ICCR also organizes inbound cultural festivals from time to time. International Ramayana Festival, Africa Dance & Music Festival, International Folk Festival, International Jazz Festival are some important cultural events being annually organised by ICCR in India.

Exhibitions: ICCR promotes visual art by sending exhibitions for display abroad. It also hosts such exhibition in India by foreign artists.

Busts and Statues: ICCR's bust and statues programme has been primarily a goodwill programme of offering statues and busts of eminent Indian icons for installation at prominent locations abroad.

Promotion of Yoga and International Day of Yoga: Since 2015, with the announcement of International Day of Yoga (IDY) to be celebrated on 21 June every year, ICCR facilitated organizing of mega-scale IDY celebrations all over the world.

Scholarship programme: Under this programme about 3500 scholarship are provided to nationals of different countries.

**6.10** The Council's activities are overseen by its three statutory bodies – General Assembly, Governing Body and Finance Committee. These bodies provide overall guidance and direction and approve ICCR's budget and Annual Plan of Action. These bodies meet regularly, to monitor implementation of programmes and functioning of the Council.

**6.11** Regarding the organizational structure of ICCR, the Ministry stated that ICCR is headed by the President, ICCR. Director General, a Secretary or Additional Secretary level officer from the Indian Foreign Service, is the Executive head of the Council deputed by the Ministry of External Affairs. Director General is assisted by Deputy Director Generals and Directors, deputed by MEA. ICCR has a cadre strength of 206 posts of various grade including officers upto the level of Director and supporting staff. In addition, Council engages consultant and outsource staff as per the functional requirement. ICCR functions from its headquarters in New Delhi and through its 18 Regional Offices in various States in India and 37 Indian Cultural Centers overseas.

**6.12** The Committee were keen to know whether there is a proposal to revamp the structure, organization and mandate of ICCR. The Ministry responded that ICCR regularly evaluates its functioning in the light of current requirements and challenges. It had recently conducted a performance audit of its cultural centres abroad and appropriate action to implement requisite changes is being effected.

**6.13** When asked about the role played by MEA in ICCR, the Ministry replied that the India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian Cultural through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. MEA accept the strategic significance of the work done by ICCR through public and cultural diplomacy as among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy and therefore, Heads of Mission attach top priority and importance to the task of projecting cultural heritage and assets of India. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in

the country concerned. Activities of ICCR contribute substantially towards overall formulation of India's foreign policy.

**6.14** ICCR's Cultural Centres are the principal instrument of India's institutional outreach. On being asked about any proposal to open more Indian Cultural Centers abroad during the upcoming financial year, the Ministry stated that ICCR is now operating 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) abroad and is in the process of opening its two new centres in Washington and Paris. The renovation work of both the centres is ongoing and slated for completion shortly.

**6.15** Elaborating upon the objective criterion for setting up of new cultural centres, the ICCR stated that setting up of Indian Cultural centres abroad is primarily the decision of Ministry of External Affairs with inputs from Missions and ICCR. The following points are taken into account while deciding the opening of cultural centre.

- Background information of Mission and proposed activities to be undertaken
- Population of the country with details of persons of Indian origin
- Area programme for ICC
- Local formalities and approvals to be followed while opening ICCs
- Details of running of other Foreign Cultural Centres in that country
- Interest of General Public with regard to knowledge of India and its culture
- Number of ICCR events organised by the Mission
- Details of universities that have chair of Indian studies supported by ICCR.

The ICCR deploys teaches of Yoga, Hindi & Performing Arts in the ICCs. Their selection is done through open advertisements. Engagement of support staff for administration, accounts & housekeeping are administratively managed locally by the Indian Missions. ICCR adhere to the laid down policy with respect to opening of Cultural Centres and appointments.

**6.16 As a pre-eminent organization of Ministry of External Affairs with a mandate of India's soft power abroad, ICCR's activities are spread across the globe ranging from providing scholarships to organizing exhibitions to performing arts and visuals arts programme. The Committee note that there has**

been a marginal increase in allocation to ICCR from Rs. 300 crore (BE 2021-22) to Rs. 320 crore (BE 2022-23). Enhanced allocation has been provisioned for Incoming Exhibitions, Distinguished Visitors Programme, Academic Visitors Programme, Incoming Cultural Delegation, Bust & Statue, Gen Next Democracy Network. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/Posts in the concerned country. The Committee note that barring a small and insignificant amount (on account of fee receipt from local students) from Indian Cultural Centres abroad, ICCR has no other source of extra-budgetary funding. While the activities of ICCR have expanded, there has been no improvement in budgetary allocation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should further increase the budgetary allocation for ICCR at RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 stage justifying the increasing significance of soft power projection of the country and central role of ICCR in it. The Ministry should explore the possibility of Partnership and PPP Models for ICCR where the partners also put in resources for executing projects.

*(Recommendation No. 29)*

6.17 Indian Cultural Centres are instruments of India's cultural outreach abroad. The Ministry has informed that ICCR is now operating 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) abroad and is in the process of opening its two new centres in Washington and Paris. The Committee note that the renovation work of both the centres is ongoing and slated for completion shortly. The Ministry has recently conducted a performance audit of its cultural centres abroad and appropriate action to implement requisite changes is underway.

The Committee are relieved to learn that the much delayed establishment of cultural Centres in two significant places like Washington and Paris are expected to be completed. The Committee desire that the Cultural Centres in Washington and Paris are operationalized by the end of this year. The

**Committee would like to be apprised about the findings of the audit of Cultural Centres.**

***(Recommendation No. 30)***

## **II. Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**

**6.18** ICWA was established in 1943 as a think tank and was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Council has been declared an institution of national importance. The Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001 lays down the objectives of the ICWA. Section 13 of the Act lists the objectives as:

- To promote the study of Indian and international affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters.
- To promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organizations within and outside India engaged in similar activities.
- To serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs.
- To publish books, periodicals, journals, reviews, papers, pamphlets and other literature on subjects covered under Indian foreign policy.
- To establish contacts with organizations promoting objects facilitating India's relations with other countries.
- To arrange conferences and seminars to discuss and study the Indian policy towards international affairs.
- To undertake such other activities for the promotion of ideas and attainment of the above mentioned objects.

**6.19** An outlay of Rs. 14.81 crore has been provided for ICWA during BE 2022-23 which is slightly lower than the budgetary allocation during BE 2021-22. Specifying the reason for reduced allocation during BE 2022-23 and RE 2021-22, the Ministry stated that the reason for reduction in RE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 is due to less requirement



of funds for renovation work due to Covid-related delays, which is in alignment with assessed pace of work and savings on organization of physical events/seminars and research related activities due to Covid related restrictions. The funds for core activities of ICWA have been suitably provisioned.

**6.20** The expenditure incurred during the last three financial years is as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs. crores)</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>11.87</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>11.83</b>

**6.21** On being asked whether in the opinion of the Ministry, ICWA been able to attain its stated objective, the Ministry responded affirmatively and stated that ICWA has been able to attain its stated objective. As per the ICWA Act 2001 of Parliament, the objectives of the Council are:

- a) to promote the study of Indian and international affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters;
- b) to promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussion, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organisations within and outside India engaged in similar activities;
- c) to serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs
- d) to publish books, periodicals, journals, reviews, papers, pamphlets and other literature on subjects covered under clauses (a) and (b);
- e) to establish contacts with organisations promoting objects mentioned in this section;
- f) to arrange conferences and seminars to discuss and study the Indian policy towards international affairs; and
- g) to undertake such other activities for the promotion of ideas and attainment of the above-mentioned objectives.

**6.22** The Ministry also furnished details about the conferences organized by ICWA and the tangible policy outcomes emerging out of them that were beneficial in framing foreign policy agenda. During the period April 2021- February 2022, the Council has organized a total of 48 Seminars/ Webinars/Bilateral dialogues/ Lectures and Book discussions. Except two events, 46 events were held either online or in hybrid mode given the second and third wave of COVID 19 pandemic situation.

The Council organized 15 international interactions in the form of Conferences, lectures and Bilateral Dialogues. Some important bilateral dialogues held were with our counterparts in China, Russia, Poland, South Korea and Uzbekistan; and discussions with experts from think tank in the US. The Foreign Minister of Maldives H.E. Mr Abdulla Shahid and the Foreign Minister of Serbia H.E. Mr Nikola Selakovic delivered Sapru House Lectures organized by ICWA. The Council partnered with MEA to organized interactions and discussions to commemorate MaitriDiwas: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India-Bangladesh relations and 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam.

Major online international conferences organized were on Gallipoli Revisited (Indian Soldiers in WWI); UN Peacekeeping and Hostage-taking of Peacekeepers; India and the SCO; the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Dialogue and Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group Meeting organized in partnership with MEA. These saw wide participation by scholars and experts from various countries in the respective areas. In some of the dialogues/webinars, Heads of Indian Missions and Foreign Heads of Missions in Delhi participated such as the policy dialogues on India and the SCO, and dialogues with MoU partners in Poland, South Korea and Russia.

The Council, in its conferences, seminars and bilateral dialogues gave priority to engage a more diverse set of voices in the discussion and debates. Experts and scholars were invited from various think tanks, universities and research institutes across the country, to participate as resource persons.

**6.23** On being asked the Ministry provided a detailed note on the organizational structure of ICWA. ICWA is governed by a Governing Council and its executive committee, the Governing Body. The Hon'ble Vice President of India is ICWA's ex-officio President. The Council has three Vice-Presidents, including the Minister for

External Affairs. Director General of ICWA is nominated by the Governing Council and functions as its CEO. He/she holds office for a period of three years. Besides, there is a sanctioned post of a Deputy Director General, Director, Administrative Officer and Accounts Officer which are filled up on deployment from MEA. Besides, there are thirty regular sanctioned posts of permanent staff at the Assistant (5), UDC (8), LDC (3) and MTS (14) levels. Governing Council and Governing Body meet at least once a year to deliberate upon the activities of ICWA and approve decisions taken by its Finance Committee, Research Committee and Programme Committee.

**6.24** ICWA is administered as per the provisions of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001. The budget for ICWA is provided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on grant basis. ICWA organizes conferences and seminars to discuss and study India's policy towards international politics. It undertakes research activities and publishes books, periodicals, journals and other literature on subjects dealt by the Council. The ICWA Research Faculty currently consists of Director (Research), 3 Senior Research Fellows, 20 Research Fellows and 7 Research Interns.

### **III. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**

**6.25** RIS is a think tank specializing in international economic relations and development cooperation, serving as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue among think tanks of developing countries. The Memorandum of Association of RIS stipulates the key objectives of its establishment by the government:

- 1.** To serve as a national focal point to identify and discuss priority areas of research concerning multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters;
- 2.** To undertake research activities or may assign areas of research to specified national institutions;
- 3.** To forge effective links between research institutions of other Non-aligned and developing countries; organize discussions, seminars and workshops and may involve research institutions of other countries; and

4. To advise Government of India on all matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, as may be referred to from time to time.
  - It was mandated to promote the concept of self-reliance among the Non-aligned and other developing countries and to forge and maintain the system of effective links amongst the various research institutions of these countries; to undertake and disseminate analytical studies on diverse aspects such as trade, industrialization, finance, energy, raw materials, technology transfer, education, health, etc, among other objectives.
  - The concept of RIS was mooted at the NAM Ministerial Conference way back in 1975 and the decision to establish it was taken during its Colombo Summit in 1976. It was floated by the MEA to work as a useful mechanism with independent back up facilities to assist the developing countries in their dialogue with the developed countries on trade issues to defend their interests. RIS was established as a Society with the Registrar of Societies in Delhi on 30 May 1983.

**6.26** An outlay of Rs. 14.59 crore has been earmarked under this Head for BE 2022-23 while an allocation of Rs. 23.08 crore was made at RE 2021-22. Explaining the rationale behind reduced allocation under this head, the Ministry stated that RIS had sent a comprehensive proposal to the MEA, with the approval of its Governing Council, seeking a onetime special grant of around Rs. 10 crore for getting on perpetual lease an additional built up space of 4225 sq. ft being surrendered by IL&FS at IHC with the approval of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through its Land & Development Office on the lines of the allotment of its existing premises at IHC which were purchased with the support of the MEA for being an autonomous body under the MEA. Since 1995 the work programme of RIS has expanded with the increase of its role and responsibilities by the Government. Consequently, Faculty and Administrative staff of RIS have also grown resulting in a space crunch within its gross area of 8153 sq. feet. The integration of the additional space located in the contiguous zone of the existing premises of RIS would offer the most viable and long lasting solution to address the serious problem of space crunch being encountered by RIS which is seriously coming in

the way of utilizing the full potential of the institution. As such the allocation of enhanced RE of RIS to Rs. 23.08 crore at RE 2021-22 was made by the Ministry to support RIS acquire the additional space to overcome its acute problem of space crunch which is seriously impacting its overall functioning and impeding the full utilization of its potential.

Taking into account the financial requirements presented by RIS for its day to day functioning of the institution, a provision of Rs. 13.08 crore has been made at RE 2021-22, along with a one-time grant of Rs. 10 crores for the purchase of additional space at IHC, in comparison to its BE at Rs. 14.59 crore for 2022-23. Therefore, there is no reduction as such as far as the allocation of funds for the day-to-day functioning of the institution is concerned.

**6.27** The actual expenditure incurred by RIS in this regard during the last three years is as follows:

<b>Figures in Lakhs</b>	
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2018-19	113.00
2019-20	165.00
2020-21	37.00 The sudden fall in expenditure was purely due to Covid pandemic disabling local and international travel and physical interactions for holding dialogues, conferences or meetings

**6.28** The details of expenditure of RIS during the last three years is as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs. crores)</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>11.48</b>

**6.29** As per the Ministry, the thrust areas of RIS Work Programme are as follows:

**A. Global Economic Issues and South-South Cooperation**

- Patterns and Dynamics of Global Trade
- WTO: Broader debate on multilateralism
- Agreement on Agriculture and Food Security
- TRIPS and Domestic Patent Regime
- IPRs with special focus to Indian Pharmaceutical Industries
- GATS and Trade in Services Agreement (TISA)
- Dispute Settlement Mechanism under WTO
- Post-2015 Global Development Agenda
- International Financial Institutions
- BRICS New Development Bank
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- International Aid Architecture and Development Cooperation
- Global Ethics in Science and Technology
- Human Genetics and Access
- Issues for developing countries in G-20
- Climate Change Negotiations
- Global Value Chains

**B. Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation**

- South Asia Development and Cooperation Report
- Regional Value Chain in South Asia
- India and Central Asia
- India-Eurasian Economic Community Engagements
- Blue Economy
- IORA in the New Millennium
- Economic Aspects of Fisheries in the IORA region
- Dimensions of IBSA and BRICS partnership
- India-China Trade Relationship

- Towards a New Strategic Economic Partnership with Africa
- India-COMESA Partnership
- Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement and other mega FTAs
- Africa Asia Growth Corridor
- Indo-Pacific Dialogue
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
- Meaning of Indian Economic Dynamism for East Asia
- India-Japan Economic Partnership
- Economic Integration between India and CLMV region
- Global and Regional Value Chains through Rules of Origin
- India's Engagement with Latin America
- India-SICA Economic Partnership
- India-Bangladesh Dialogue

### **C. Connectivity and Regional Cooperation**

- Connectivity in South Asia: Issues and Way Forward
- BBIN Growth Quadrangle
- BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement
- Development Corridors in Myanmar
- India's Border Trade with Myanmar and Connectivity
- ASEAN-India Maritime Issues
- ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR)
- Digital Connectivity with ASEAN
- Impact of Economic Corridors
- Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development
- Challenges in Financing Infrastructure Projects
- Maritime Connectivity and Shipping Linkages
- International North–South Transport Corridor
- Trade Facilitation at Indian Ports

- Tourism with improved Shipping linkages
- Telecommunication Connectivity in South Asia
- BCIM Economic Cooperation

#### **D. New Technologies and Development Issues**

- Biotechnology and development
- International Cooperation in traditional medicines
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of living modified organisms
- Impact of GM crops
- Global Responsible Research
- Technology Transfer under the Clean Development Mechanism
- Climate change and Environment-friendly technologies
- IPR regimes and their implications for Commercialization of Technologies
- National Innovation System
- Policy Responses for strengthening R&D activities
- Sector-specific technological imperatives like pharmaceuticals, electronics and auto component in context of Make in India
- Trade, Technology and Growth in Developing Countries
- New Technologies and Digital Divide
- Cyber Security, technologies and regulatory regimes
- TRIPS plus commitments in Mega-regional groupings like the TPP
- Nano-technology and development
- New materials and implications for manufacturing productivity
- Trade, FDI and Total Factor Productivity since India's Liberalization
- India Africa Partnership in Technology in Agriculture and Health

Taking note of the specialized knowledge and evidence based research, the depth of its regional and global network and partner institutions, growing influence particularly in promoting the new development narrative of Global South, bringing together North and South for sustainable development, and its unique convening power



to present multi-disciplinary multi-dimensional perspectives on issues critical to developing countries, Department of Science & Technology has assigned a multi-year research programmed to RIS on Science Diplomacy and the Ministry of Ayush has entered into a Knowledge Partnership with RIS for a span of three years for deeper research on promotion of India 'Traditional Medicines'. NITI Ayog also designated RIS as its advocacy partner for SDGs.

**6.30** Over the years, RIS has developed the expertise to promote multi-stakeholder consultations on vital issues concerning the developing countries, including South Cooperation, under which it brings together the North and the South for maximum possible convergence on development issues and for the promotion of collaborative and cooperative endeavors between the two sides. RIS hosts annual Delhi Process dialogue with the strong support of MEA on international development cooperation with the participation of international development experts. MEA has instituted IBSA Fellowship Programme at RIS to reinvigorate the process. It also organizes five ITEC programmes every year with the support of MEA and ASEAN Center. RIS also works under the overall guidance and support of MEA to promote India's cooperation with the ASEAN countries on issues of its core interest.

**6.31** The organization structure of RIS is as follows:

**Members:**

- a) Ex-officio: Foreign Secretary; Secretary (ER) of Ministry of External Affairs; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; and Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.
- b) Any eminent person with specialization in the field of Social Sciences, Science and technology nominated by the Government of India.

**General Body:** General Body of RIS is composed of all the members of the RIS.

**Officers and Authorities of the RIS:**

- **Officers:** President, Vice President and such other officers as may be designated by the Government of India from amongst the members of the RIS.

- **Authorities:**

- i) The Governing Council;
- ii) The Director General; and
- iii) Such other authorities as may be constituted/appointed as such by Governing Council.

**The Governing Council:** The Governing Council has the same membership as the General Body. The President and the Vice-President of the General Body are the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Governing Council. The Director General of the RIS is the ex officio Member-Secretary of the Governing Council and of the General Body.

**The Director General:** The Director General of the RIS is appointed with the approval of the Government of India. The Director General shall be the Principal Executive Officer of the RIS.

**Research Advisory Committee:** Since its inception, the Research Advisory Council (RAC) at RIS, comprising of eminent persons from policy making and academic world, continues to guide the Institution in its substantive work programme. Normally, it meets twice a year well before the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS so that its recommendations are considered by it. It, inter alia, reviews the entire work programme of the institution and provides guidance on the broad thematic areas for priority treatment. The recommendations of the RAC, duly approved by the Governing Council of the institution, are implemented by RIS under the overall guidance of DG, RIS.

**RIS Bye Laws:** Contains a set of government rules and regulations, including recruitment rules for various categories of posts, approved by the Government for the smooth functioning of the institution

**Committees governing the Administrative work at RIS:** RIS has constituted a number of Committee to supervise and control the institution as part of participative governance within the system for the smooth functioning of the institutions.

**6.32** The Committee wanted to know the exact role of RIS in providing intellectual support to the Policy Planning and Research Division of the Ministry. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that RIS has a comprehensive programme of research collaboration with international organizations and academic bodies of other countries. The outcome of such collaboration is usually in the form of academic research, which is published, in various index academic journals and is regularly shared by RIS with PP&R Division and gets reflected in its compendium for wider internal circulation among policy makers. These important inputs are also appropriately utilized by the Division in its bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices, preparation of research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular and in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Ministry.

- The ASEAN-India Centre, which is housed within RIS, conducts seminars, webinars and brings out reports for strengthening of India's relations with the ASEAN member countries. These reports on issues of mutual interest for India and ASEAN countries are also utilized by the Division for effective policy planning dialogues with them and for developing larger foreign policy perspectives in the Indo-Pacific because of the centrality of the role of the ASEAN in this process.
- RIS facilitates the task of effectively undertaking research based on continuous analysis of India's principal foreign policy objectives on various regional and global developments through a wide range of dialogues, seminars and thematic conferences funded by the Ministry of External Affairs. It enables PP&R Division to incorporate academic and policy analysis into the process of foreign policy formulation through deeper exchange of ideas and policies.
- In its in-depth studies RIS strongly brings out the imperatives for reformed multilateralism and globalization to reflect the needs and aspirations of the developing countries, including India, and thus strengthens the efforts of PP&R Division to promote the creation of a new, people centric template for multilateral cooperation through its research studies by mobilizing and influencing opinion among regional and global domain knowledge experts in

this regard.

- The primary spatial orientation of India's foreign policy remains its immediate neighbourhood, under the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' combined with our revitalised 'Act East Policy' and 'Think West Policy' that seeks to enhance our engagement in our extended neighbourhood. In its research, dialogues and studies, RIS reinforces this focus among think tanks and policy shapers of the region and effectively puts across India's standpoint on these issues as an autonomous institution.
- The studies of RIS on trade and economic issues strongly back India's diplomatic strategic imperative of an Atmanirbhar Bharat that catalyzes a globalised India focused on linking the local to the global, on becoming a nerve center of global supply chains and a manufacturing hub.
- As India is going to assume the Presidency of G-20 in 2023, RIS has established a dedicated team of research scholars to provide research support to the MEA under the guidance of PP&R Division on areas of key importance to India for the advancement of its foreign policy objectives, including shaping of reformed or rebalanced multilateralism and globalization, enhance convergence among G-20 members for collective efforts in key areas to propel post pandemic collective recovery, development of new strategies and approaches to assist developing countries, climate change, financial inclusion, effective management of global institutions and engagement groups guided by our civilizational ethos and our heritage that places humanity at the center of global prosperity and cooperation and of a fair and responsible international world order.
- The eminent band of eminent subject scholars from India and other parts of world, engaged by RIS for policy relevant dialogues on issues of core interest to India and its rigorous specialized evidenced based research studies, provide vital inputs to MEA in its policy formulation options on key issues to safeguard and promote India's interests. The expertise of RIS on issues pertaining to Global South, including the evolving architecture on international trade, investment, finance, development, IPR and STI as well as on WTO issues

provides vital policy relevant inputs to MEA and other departments of the Government.

- RIS is one of the major think tanks supported by the Ministry of External Affairs. It conducts critical studies on issues governing international economic development, trade, investment and technology, which have assumed far greater importance than ever before in the backdrop of highly turbulent regional and global trade and economic scenario primarily due to the devastating impact of COVID 19 all over the world and the increasingly protectionist trade and economic policies being adopted by many countries. Policy research inputs received from RIS on the emerging regional and global economic scenario profoundly assist the government in effective formulation of its policy postures to defend and promote the core interests of India.
- RIS is organically connected with the Ministry. The wide range of policy research studies as well as dialogues on critical issues impacting the core interests of the country with a wide range of national and international subject experts, high ranking policy makers and shapers, academia, representatives of international organizations, resident diplomats, CSOs, industry and media enables the Ministry and its high ranking officials to put across governments perspective. Their engagement with this process also benefits from their outcomes which are regularly shared by RIS with the MEA and its Missions and Posts abroad through its various publications for policy updates.
- Under its Science Diplomacy Programme with the support of Department of Science & Technology, RIS has created a network of its partners with Global South to share the stride made by the country in various fields and to benefit from external knowledge and experience of its partners. Science Counsellors in resident Diplomatic Missions also take part in its various programmes on STI and the outcome of their deliberations is shared by RIS with the MEA and its Missions abroad so that our diplomats are abreast of potential areas in which India can collaborate with its partner countries.
- RIS also conducts specialized studies and dialogues on BIMSTEC with its partner countries for the government at track 1, 1.5 and 2 levels and shares its

inputs with the Ministry for use in policy formulation endeavors. RIS also brings out its prestigious South Asia Economic Journal which showcases the contributions from regional trade and economic experts on contemporary issues which is also utilized by the Government for a clearer understanding of ongoing developments in critical areas of significance to the country.

- RIS shares with the government and MEA's high ranking officials the ground realities and alternative thought process which are absolutely essential for credible policy shapers and shares the possible areas of policy convergence on key issues with India's partners.
- Though COVID-19 health and safety crisis has seriously impacted the in person functioning of the institution, undeterred by it RIS continued to come out with a wide range of policy research studies and papers on emerging issues providing vital inputs to the government on some of key foreign policy issues and towards building pro-India narrative on issues of vital interest to the country at the regional and international level, particularly among countries of the Global South.
- RIS also conducts rigorous studies on issues connected with regional trade and economic integration and brings out its reports, which are also utilized by the Government for effective policy articulation on critical issues. Based on inputs received from various think tanks, including RIS, the Government structures its short, medium and long-term policies for its neighboring countries. RIS also helps the government by bringing regional and countries experts who regularly contribute to its research programme and also take part in policy dialogues for a better understanding of ground realities by the government on such matters in the neighboring countries.
- The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS enables the Government to encourage cooperation between India and ASEAN member states in support of sub-regional development as it works with relevant institutions, both public and private, in India and in ASEAN countries to develop practical project proposals for governments aimed at enhancing India-ASEAN connectivity, through supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and

the ASEAN ICT Master Plan, 2015. The Centre undertakes regular networking activities with relevant public/private agencies, organizations and think tanks in India and ASEAN Countries, with the aim of providing up-to-date information, date resources and sustained interaction to the Government so as to promote India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership.

**6.33** On the Committee's specific query regarding the role played by MEA in ICWA and RIS, the Ministry stated that apart from its annual financial support, MEA continues to actively be involved in the work programme of ICWA and RIS so that it is in alignment with the evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals. EAM is the Vice-President of the Governing Council and a member of the Governing Body of ICWA. Foreign Secretary is a member of both the Governing Body and the Governing Council of ICWA. Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA attend the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS and share their vision which forms a vital part of the work programme of RIS.

At the functional level, Ministry maintains regular contact with ICWA and RIS. It also coordinates with various divisions of the Ministry where inputs and programmatic & research support might be required from ICWA and RIS. Senior officials of the MEA participate in the wide range of conferences, dialogues and workshops organized by ICWA and RIS on core areas of India's interest in the geopolitics and geo-economics, trade, finance, development, neighbourhood connectivity and South Cooperation and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

MEA also works with ICWA and RIS to hold track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues so as to promote India's foreign policy objectives. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.

**6.34** As regards the contribution of RIS and ICWA in carrying out the foreign policy goals, the Ministry stated that both ICWA and RIS play an important role towards the promotion of India's foreign policy goals in the field of regional and international trade, finance, development, science, technology and innovations. ICWA performs three principal functions - a) Carry out Research with a Foreign Policy focus, b) to act as a

platform for discourse on foreign policy and International affairs and maintains a robust publication programme, and c) Outreach with like-minded institutions nationally and internationally. In each of these three aspects, ICWA brings to bear focus on 'Area Studies', as a distinct body of research. RIS by virtue of its convening power and regional and global network of partner institutions, vigorously promotes India's narrative on issues of India's core interest in the backdrop of growing threats to multilateralism and rising protectionism. Its focused attention on issues confronting Global South enables MEA to cultivate this important constituency in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which is extremely important to pave the way for the creation of market access opportunities for India in these countries.

**6.35** On the Committee's insistence, the Ministry furnished a detailed note comparing the mandate, organization, structure and activities of ICWA and RIS.

- RIS is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 whereas ICWA was established under an Act of Parliament.
- The Governing Council (GB) of ICWA is Chaired by Hon'ble Vice President of India in his ex-officio capacity and the President of the institution whereas in the case of RIS its President is a Government appointee in honorary capacity with a tenure of three years. Apart from its President, ICWA also has three Vice Presidents to be nominated by its Council and also has a provision for nomination of five members of Lok Sabha to be nominated by the Speaker and three members of Rajya Sabha nomination by its Chairman. There is no such representation on the GB/GC of RIS involving the presence of Ministers or Parliamentarians. On the other hand, the small and compact composition of the Membership of RIS constituting its governance structure consists of the following:

- **Membership**

- RIS shall consist of the following members:

- i) **Ex Official**

- a) Foreign Secretary; Secretary (ER) of Ministry of External Affairs; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance;



Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; and Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

**b)** Any eminent person with specialization in the field of Social Sciences, Science and technology nominated by the Government of India.

**ii)** A member shall be nominated for a period of three years. He shall be eligible for re-nomination.

- At present the Governing Council of ICWA has 47 members in comparison to 11 in respect of RIS.
- The functions of RIS include analytical and policy-oriented research of high professional standards on international economic issues, whereas ICWA deals with political and strategic dimensions of core foreign policy issues.
- RIS has been designed as a forum for intellectual debate on international economic issues with the support of the network of institutions which it has developed and nurtured over the years in other countries in the world beyond the ambit of national governments and through this network RIS has acquired its present stature and actively works on track 1.5 and 2 on critical issues affecting India's trade and economic linkages.
- RIS has on its faculty, professional economists with highest academic degrees like Ph.D. and with long periods of research experience and over the years it has developed a highly specialized documentation center and data bank focusing on economic issues.
- RIS has become a well-established policy research institution in India, which is widely known in the professional and policy circles both in India and abroad and by virtue of its outreach it has created a number of specific platforms globally to effectively put across India's standpoint on issues of critical importance including Global Development Centre, FITM, Science Diplomacy network, NeST, FITM, FIDC etc.
- RIS produces evidence based policy research studies in consultation with our key Ministries and Departments of the Government and provides them with vital policy inputs on a regular basis. Similarly, RIS also interacts closely with

several inter-governmental organizations and is invited by them to contribute to their policy formulation processes on key issues affecting the developing countries.

- While RIS acts as India's national focal point for co-ordination of trade and economic research activities among developing countries and advises the Government on issues relating to multilateral economic issues to safeguard and promote the interests of developing countries, ICWA carries out studies of Indian and international affairs to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters.
- Unlike ICWA, RIS offers the unique Southern alternative to its ITEC participants on issues of critical importance to the ITEC partner countries to defend and promote their core interests at bilateral, regional and global level. RIS shares its evidence based research with ITEC participants on traditional and emerging issues impacting Global South covering economic issues, including e-commerce and IPR Issues, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Health and Well-being, including Traditional Medicines, Sustainable Development Goals, including Trade Sustainability as well as the role of Science Technology and Innovation through Science Diplomacy for accelerated social and economic development of participating countries. It also shares the best developmental practices pioneered by India and other developing countries for their possible replication in participating countries as part of mutual learning and sharing of experience, expertise and capabilities for collective self-reliance of Global South.
- Unlike ICWA, with the support of MEA, RIS conducts the following five ITEC programmes ranging between two to four weeks every year in which around 30 participants from ITEC partner countries take part:
  - i) International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)
  - ii) Learning South-South Cooperation
  - iii) Science Diplomacy
  - iv) Trade and Sustainability
  - v) Sustainable Development Goals

Unlike ICWA, with the support of MEA, RIS conducts the IBSA Fellowship Programme under which two scholars each from IBSA partner countries conduct research on IBSA Process issues at RIS for a period of six months. Two rounds of Fellowships have already taken place and the third round is likely to commence as soon as COVID clouds wither away

**6.36** Furthermore, the aims and objectives of RIS in comparison to ICWA are entirely different, as follows:

- a)** To promote the concept of self-reliance among the developing countries and to forge and maintain a system of effective links amongst the various research institutions of these countries with a view to utilize their research capabilities for the maximum common benefit;
- b)** To undertake and/or commission analytical studies; to evaluate and interpret information and data; to conduct or cause to conduct research in current trends and future projection, concerning social, economic, scientific and technological matters on a global and regional basis as appropriate;
- c)** To disseminate factual information and data relating to diverse aspects such as trade, industrialization, finance, energy, raw materials, technology transfer, education, health, etc. in such form and manner as best calculated to strengthen the unified position and approach of the non-aligned and other developing countries;
- d)** To serve as a national focal point for co-ordination of research activities among the non-aligned and other developing countries and to this end organize conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops as appropriate;
- e)** To serve and effectively function on a continuous basis as a data bank/information storage, processing and retrieval center, on global and regional problems bearing on the interest of non-aligned and other developing countries;
- f)** To promote research studies bearing on cooperation among developing countries to economic, scientific, technological and related areas;

- g)** To advise the Government of India on all matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, as may be referred to it from time to time, including collaborative arrangements with developing countries;
- h)** To give grants for publications of research undertaken by RIS and for periodicals and journals devoted to such research;
- i)** To undertake all such other activities as are incidental to or necessary for or conducive to achieving all or any of the above objectives.

**6.37 The Committee observe that Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) play an important role towards the promotion of India's foreign policy goals in the field of regional and international trade, finance, development, science, technology and innovations. An allocation of Rs. 14.81 crore and Rs. Rs. 14.59 crore has been earmarked on expenditure for ICWA and RIS, respectively for the FY 2022-23. On an in-depth analysis of the mandate, organizational structure and activities undertaken by ICWA and RIS, the Committee are of the opinion that there is significant overlapping of activities conducted by the two autonomous bodies. In an increasingly interdependent global order, there cannot be a segregation of foreign policies issues into economic and non economic. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should make an assessment study of revamping and merging these two research organizations with a greater budgetary outlay, clear mandate and focused research outputs.**

*(Recommendation No. 31)*

## CHAPTER 7

### FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Policy Planning and Research (PP&R) Division is the nodal division of the Ministry for medium-term policy planning, and organizing public diplomacy initiatives with the strategic and academic community. The Division leads the Ministry's efforts in cross-cutting initiatives especially those which involve coordination with other ministries in the Government of India. It also funds various research studies on topical subjects to analyse and assess contemporary trends in international relations. The research output is utilized by the Ministry and Indian Missions and Posts abroad in formulation and execution of policies.

**7.2** On being asked about the exact role of Policy Planning Division, the Ministry stated that it is the nodal division of the Ministry for policy planning and public diplomacy initiatives with the strategic and academic community. It also conducts bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues. The Division along with its network of autonomous bodies (Indian Council of World Affairs and Research and Information Systems), think tanks and academic collaborations provide a well-organised mechanism for the purpose of Policy Planning and Research in foreign affairs. As the nodal Division of the Ministry, the PP&R Division undertakes a continuous analysis of our principal foreign policy objectives, as well as provides research-based perspectives to the Ministry on various regional and global developments.

**7.3** The Policy Planning Division performs the following functions:

- (1)** Interface with the strategic community by organizing collaborative conferences and seminars with various think tanks, as well as supporting and facilitating India's participation in major international conferences. The Raisina Dialogue, the Global Technology Summit, the Asian Economic Dialogue and the Indian Ocean Conference are some of the flagship conferences organised by the division, in partnership with prominent think-tanks. In addition to these, the Division also organizes national level seminars in collaboration with universities and academic

institutions in different locations in the country to aid in the dissemination of foreign policy awareness.

- (2) Conduct of bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices and organise Track 1.5 dialogues with our important diplomatic partners.
- (3) Prepare research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular. These reports are disseminated within the Ministry and the Government.
- (4) The Division is also mandated to prepare and publish the Annual Report of the Ministry which is tabled in Parliament. This is an intensive, three-month-long process during which this Division collates and synthesizes inputs from all our Divisions; and, presents a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's activities on an annual basis.

**7.4** The Committee wanted to know about the factors shaping our foreign policy in the short, medium and long run, the Ministry stated that the primary objectives of India's foreign policy are to protect and promote India's national interests, defend territorial integrity and sovereignty and ensure peaceful, secure and stable regional and global environment that is conducive to India's growth and development. Article 51 of the Constitution provides directions to conduct India's foreign policy in pursuit of just and honourable relations between nations and to promote international peace and security. These factors play an enduring role in shaping our foreign policy.

India's foreign policy adjusts to our renewed objectives, and to the evolving global environment while safeguarding our core interests. In effect, India's global strategy is aimed to diversify and expand the country's political, economic and geo strategic options to ensure that India continues on its upward trajectory as a fast-growing inclusive economy, with a rising profile in global affairs.

**7.5** The Ministry further stated that as India's foreign policy adjusts to evolving global circumstances, it continues to promote Indian national interests, *vis-à-vis* the emerging geo-technological landscape. India continues to build its capacities to strengthen its

fight against terrorism and threats to its territorial integrity and sovereignty. India's diaspora remains central to our foreign policy agenda, as would the objective of effective service delivery and citizen-centric governance.

Indian foreign policy is also shaped by geography. Therefore, the spatial orientation of India's foreign policy remains its immediate neighbourhood, under the Neighbourhood First Policy. Supported by Act East policy and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision, India has been strengthening ties with like-minded partners to safeguard a rules-based order across the Indo-Pacific. India's Think West policy and engagement has been acquiring fresh momentum.

**7.6** Moreover, the pandemic has brought about an era of great disruptions. Therefore, in the short term, our foreign policy is continuing to work on mitigating these challenges brought about by the pandemic. India has already been playing a pivotal role in strengthening the world's fight against Covid-19 as the "pharmacy of the world". India acted as a responsible international actor during the crisis by providing Covid-related medical supplies to over 154 countries, more than half of which were grants to our partners in the developing world. The Indian Navy conducted large-scale humanitarian operations, Mission Sagar I, II and III to extend critical humanitarian support to our partners battling COVID in our extended neighbourhood. As a part of its "*Vaccine Maitri*" India has already supplied doses of 'Made in India' vaccines to various partner countries, including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Bahrain, Seychelles, Egypt, Morocco, Afghanistan as well as partners in the Caribbean. The supplies have been made under grant assistance as well as on a commercial basis. India's vaccine manufacturers have partnered with international organisations such as GAVI that will make available doses of vaccines for Africa and UN health workers.

Our foreign policy continues to focus on leveraging diplomacy for development and channelising India's capacities to aid global economic recovery. Intensified engagements with partners through enhanced foreign investment and technology tie-ups, leading to the setting up of factories and the creation of jobs will hasten India's march towards economic recovery. Promotion of schemes of national renewal, including Make in India, Skill India, Smart Cities, Digital India and Start-up will be critical in this

endeavour. Our long-established relations with countries in the Global South, anchored on a strong history of the development partnership, contribute to economic development in these countries. India will continue to work with like-minded partners on building the resiliency of global supply chains, especially those in critical sectors such as health care.

The multilateral system remains under even great pressure, with individual countries balancing their competing interests instead of advancing our collective interests. Indian foreign policy advocates for a new, people-centric template for multilateral cooperation. While India strives to build its influence in key global forums, it is already offering to the world its own unique solutions to global issues, like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

The new global order is also defined by deepened competitiveness and challenges to established rules and norms. In this scenario, India will continue to play a role that contributes to greater stability in times of global volatility. India continues to strengthen its own capacities and build on its relations with partners to promote a rules-based international order. India will continue to step up its engagement with all the major powers of the world, taking independent decisions in its national interest.

In this increasingly multipolar world, India aspires to occupy one of the key poles of the emerging geopolitical landscape. With the right amalgamation of capabilities, relationships and positioning, this aspiration can be achieved. India's ability to move forward in the matrix of multiple interest-based alliances will determine the path towards it emerging as a leading power in coming times.

**7.7** The Committee specifically enquired whether the Ministry has explored the idea of having a grand strategy that clearly spells out coherent foreign policy objectives, goals and strategy for the long run. In a written reply, the Ministry stated that India's foreign policy is articulated, in accordance with precedent, law and parliamentary rules in documents that are available in the public domain. Continuity and change have been one of the defining characteristics of India's foreign policy. The ends of our foreign policy are deeply intertwined with national developmental priorities. Correspondingly, the means and strategies devised to achieve those ends have been attuned such that



there is maximum convergence between India's global diplomatic engagement and domestic development. In effect, India's foreign policy strategy is aimed to diversify and expand the country's political, economic, and geo-strategic options to ensure that India continues moving on an upward trajectory as a fast-growing inclusive economy, with a rising profile in global affairs.

A changing world requires a dynamic foreign policy. Over the decades, India has rapidly grown in economic, political, and military strength. Consequently, India's global footprint has expanded remarkably. There is greater integration of Indian economy with regional and global economies. Our commerce, trade and energy linkages have grown substantially. Connectivity – physical, digital, and financial – with our neighbouring partners and beyond is a fast-emerging reality. Our diaspora has grown in stature and profile and has expanded vertically and horizontally across the world. We have much stake in global governance regimes that shape our climate, technology, health, and other socio-economic policies.

**7.8** While no single overarching policy document can capture all aspects of India's foreign policy, the principles of India's diplomatic strategy are long-established and enduring. The underlying principles and priorities have been disseminated by the Ministry through various channels of public communication.

The Annual Report of the Ministry contains a comprehensive statement of policies followed in the diplomatic sphere and their implementation. Replies to Parliamentary Questions, submissions to Parliamentary Committees and Ministerial statements also articulate foreign policy strategy in accordance with the rules of parliamentary democracy. Public statements by the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, the Ministers of State in the Ministry, and senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs which are collated on the website of the Ministry are also utilized to articulate Indian diplomatic and foreign policy objectives. This is supplemented by other diplomatic documents which contain the public expression of foreign policy priorities. This is in accordance with international practice as followed by the foreign offices of major powers.

**7.9** In accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee, Indian Missions across the world were asked to provide information about the existence of grand foreign policy documents/strategy in their countries of accreditation and whether such documents, if they exist, are brought out by Foreign Offices. The responses received are tabulated as **Annexure-V**. The main findings of the survey are as follows:

1. Out of the 171 countries surveyed, 86%, *i.e.*, 148 countries do not have any single comprehensive strategy document.
2. 23 countries and the EU publish comprehensive strategy documents about strategic and foreign policy objectives. 17 of these documents are published by Foreign Offices. 6 of them are published by offices of Heads of Government (PMO equivalent).
3. The 17 countries where the Foreign Office publishes strategy documents about strategic and foreign policy objectives are:
  1. Australia
  2. Costa Rica
  3. Czech Republic
  4. Ecuador
  5. Ireland
  6. New Zealand
  7. Poland
  8. Peru
  9. Russia
  10. Spain
  11. Switzerland
  12. South Africa
  13. Thailand
  14. Turkey
  15. Finland
  16. Estonia
  17. Slovenia
4. The EU document is published by European External Action Service.

5. The 6 countries where strategy documents about strategic and foreign policy objectives are published by offices of Heads of Government are:
1. Azerbaijan: (Azerbaijan in the International Arena/Office of the President)
  2. Belgium: (Comprehensive Approach-Strategy Note/Council of Ministers)
  3. Bosnia and Herzegovina: (The Foreign Policy Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2023/Office of the President)
  4. Nigeria: (National Security Strategy/Office of the President)
  5. USA (National Security Strategic Guidance/ White House)
  6. UK (Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy/ UK PMO).

Ministry's practice of articulation of foreign policy through Annual Reports, Parliament discussions, statements of high functionaries etc. is therefore in line with international practice of the vast majority of foreign offices.

**7.10** Regarding the mechanism for incorporating academic expertise into policy formation, the Ministry stated that it accords high priority to engaging academics based in universities and think tanks and utilizing their expertise in the preparation of research papers and policy briefs. There are multiple mechanisms for engaging with academics. For example, the division funds universities for the conduct of national/international seminars and thematic conferences on a regular basis. The Ministry also engages with academia through its autonomous bodies – ICWA and RIS – which have a systematic programme of academic events as well as collaborations with corresponding institutions in other countries. The research output of the academic activities is compiled into reports and compendiums which are utilized by the Ministry.

**7.11** Another channel through which the Ministry utilizes academic expertise is by commissioning of research projects through think tanks like ICWA, RIS, IDSA etc. Apart from these formal channels, the officers of the Ministry maintain close links with academics and researchers working on areas of interest to the ministry and frequently interact with them in order to exchange views and gain insights from them. The Ministry supports various Track 1.5 Dialogues, in partnership with prominent think tanks, enabling the participation of domain expertise on key foreign policy issues. The Ministry

has also intensified institutional engagement with academic experts by facilitating regular interaction of high functionaries with academics.

**7.12** The Ministry also furnished details of the research organizations/ think tanks which are collaborating with the Division.

<b>Name of Research Institutes</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>ICWA</b>	ICWA was established in 1943 as a think tank and was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Council has been declared an institution of national importance. The Hon'ble Vice President of India is ICWA's ex-officio President. ICWA is administered as per the provisions of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001. The budget for ICWA is provided by the PP&R Division, MEA.
<b>RIS</b>	The RIS was established in 1983 as a registered society. The Society was envisaged to serve as a national focal point to identify and discuss priority areas of research concerning multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters. It was decided that the society will undertake research activities or may assign areas of research to specified national institutions. The society will also forge effective links between research institutions of other Nonaligned and developing countries. It would also organize discussions, seminars and workshops and involve research institutions of other countries in these undertakings. It would also advise the Government of

	India on all matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues as may be referred to from time to time. The Budget for RIS was also provided as a grant in aid by PP&R Division, MEA.
<b>IDSA</b>	The Institute for Defence and Strategic Analysis is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence. PP&R Division collaborates with IDSA for carrying out various conferences and thematic projects.
<b>Gateway House</b>	The Ministry collaborates with Gateway House for the organisation of the India Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue. In the past Gateway House has organised three editions of Geo-Economic Dialogue and one edition of T 20 Think Tank Dialogue.
<b>Delhi Policy Group</b>	The Ministry collaborates with Delhi Policy Group for the organisation of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue
<b>Hudson Institute</b>	The Ministry collaborates with the Hudson Institute for the organisation of the India-US Track 1.5 Dialogue.
<b>Asian Confluence</b>	The Ministry collaborates with Asian Confluence for organising NADI Dialogue in the North East.
<b>Institute of Chinese Studies</b>	The Division had provided grant in aid for the functioning of this institute.
<b>Observer Research Foundation</b>	The Division collaborates with ORF for the organisation of the Raisina Dialogue. So far, six editions of the Raisina Dialogue have been successfully organised till 2021. Raisina Dialogue is the Ministry's flagship conference relating to international strategic affairs and geo politics. In the past, ORF has also collaborated with the Ministry for activities connected to BRICS.

<b>India Foundation</b>	The division collaborates with India Foundation for the organisation of the Indian Ocean Conference. So far five editions of the Indian Ocean Conference have been held since 2016.
<b>Ananta Aspen Centre</b>	The Division collaborates with Ananta Centre for the organising of the India US Forum and the India Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue.
<b>Carnegie India</b>	The Division collaborates with Carnegie India for organising the Global Technology Summit. The sixth edition of this summit was organised in December 2021.
<b>Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)</b>	The Division is collaborating with CESP to organise theme-based, focused micro seminars for nodal officers in the Ministry and Missions.
<b>Pune International Centre</b>	The Ministry collaborates with PIC for various foreign policy related outreach conferences, including organisation of Asia Economic Dialogue.
<b>Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies</b>	The Ministry provides grants in aid to this institute for funding its academic activities.
<b>China Centre for Analysis and Strategy</b>	The Ministry provides grants in aid to this institute for funding its academic activities.
<b>National Institute for Advanced Studies</b>	The Ministry collaborates with this institute directly for commissioning thematic research as well as for inputs on scientific subjects.
<b>Kolkata University</b>	The division collaborates with this university for supporting the establishment of an Institute for Foreign Policy Studies.
<b>Others</b>	The division has collaborated with Symbiosis

	International University, Vidyaprasarak Mandal (Mumbai), Jadavpur University, Gujarat National Law University, Madurai Kamraj University and Yonsei University, Korea for numerous foreign policy outreach conferences
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**7.13** On being asked about the manner in which the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the conduct of foreign policy, the Ministry stated that the Coronavirus pandemic has created a global crisis with no parallels in living memory. It has spread to every corner of the globe and has caused disruptions in every aspect of life. Nations around the world are being forced to deal simultaneously with a catastrophic health emergency and a massive economic shock. Whole societies have locked down and restricted activities as they struggle to contain the spread of the disease. The international community – with its interlinked economies and supply chains, its burgeoning network of global institutions and flow of people – is therefore facing a uniquely difficult governance challenge.

Ministry of External Affairs made a major effort to respond to this fast-changing and complex situation. Multiple challenges have had to be dealt with on an emergency basis. A simultaneous effort has been made, in these very difficult circumstances, to be a responsible member of the international community and take a far-sighted view that will stand us in good stead in the post-pandemic world. Our policies and our actions are guided by our civilizational ethos and our heritage that places humanity at the centre of global prosperity and cooperation and of a responsible international citizenship.

India’s role as a “pharmacy of the world” has come into sharp focus during this crisis. India also acted as a responsible international actor during the crisis by providing Covid-related medical supplies to over 154 countries, more than half of which were grants to our partners in the developing world. These supplies were transported in spite of lockdowns and logistical challenges. In line with the PM’s vision of SAGAR, Indian Navy conducted large-scale humanitarian operations, Mission Sagar I, II and III to extend critical humanitarian support to our partners battling COVID in our extended

neighbourhood. As a part of these missions, essential medical supplies, food items and rapid response teams have been sent to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros Seychelles, Sudan, Eritrea, South Sudan, Djibouti, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Development and production of Covid vaccines in India, and their export highlighted India's position as a responsible and reliable stakeholder in global health supply chains and as a responsible global citizen. They also focused attention on the capacities of India's bio-pharmaceutical sector. In 2021, India has already supplied doses of Made in India vaccines to Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Bahrain, Seychelles, Egypt, Morocco, Afghanistan as well as partners in the Caribbean. The supplies have been made under grant assistance as well as on a commercial basis. India's vaccine manufacturers have partnered with international organisations such as GAVI that will make available doses of vaccines for Africa and UN health workers.

The second wave of the pandemic in April-June 2021 caused enormous stresses on our health care systems. There were shortages of critical medical supplies such as oxygen cylinders and concentrates. Procurement and logistics during the second wave proved to be much more daunting because the number of infections, critically ill patients and deaths were much higher. The Ministry mounted a global effort to speedily source critical supplies to fight the second wave. Indian Missions and Posts abroad were at the forefront of this mammoth exercise.

A Special Control Room functioning 24/7 was set up in the Ministry. Critical supplies that included Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), oxygen generation plants, concentrates, ECMO machines, vaccines and essential medicines were procured from all over the world. More than 50 countries extended support to India during this difficult time by donating essential medical supplies. Indian Missions and Posts also reached out to non-governmental organizations and individual donors who were keen to assist India at the peak of the pandemic.

**7.14** The Ministry also worked with global and domestic stakeholders for the introduction of foreign vaccines in India. The supply of critical pharmaceutical items was a major challenge for bulk vaccine production in India. The Ministry coordinated with US and European counterparts for easing imports of pharmaceutical ingredients. The



Ministry also coordinated with foreign regulatory agencies for expediting approvals for 'Made in India' vaccines. Covishield was approved by the World Health Organisation in February 2021 and Covaxin in November 2021.

The Ministry also has worked out travel arrangements based on mutual recognition of vaccine certificates with over 100 countries in a bid to expeditiously normalize international travel. In July 2021, the **CoWin Global Conclave** was organized to showcase India's digital capacities in fighting the pandemic.

The Ministry adapted with speed and scale to the challenges imposed to diplomatic communication and interaction imposed by the disruptions to travel. Corona-era diplomacy using virtual tools was rapidly activated. Multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral meetings have taken place at all levels using virtual platforms and voice communications. Our participation in – and leadership of – several multilateral initiatives during the year marked the beginning of a new chapter. The highlights of this were the Prime Minister's participation inter alia in the G7, G20, COP26, UNGA, Summit for Democracy, Quad Leaders Summit, and India's presidencies of the UNSC and BRICS.

In-person diplomatic operations resumed during the year. Virtual diplomacy, however, is here to stay. Ministry has adapted and will continue to adapt, and to innovate, to operate in this new hybrid reality.

During this period, the Ministry has been cognizant of the needs of our diaspora and has stood by them throughout this difficult period, as evidenced by the success of the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM). VBM has been the largest such repatriation operation ever conducted. This saw safe international travel of more than 3 million stranded & distressed people during global shutdowns in the wake of the pandemic.

**7.15 The Policy Planning Division is the nodal division of the Ministry of External Affairs for policy planning and public diplomacy initiatives with the strategic and academic community. The Committee note that the primary objectives of India's foreign policy are to protect and promote India's national interests, defend territorial integrity and sovereignty and ensure peaceful, secure and stable regional and global environment that is conducive to India's growth and development. The Ministry has informed that high priority is accorded to**

engaging academics based in universities and think tanks and utilizing their expertise in the preparation of research papers and policy briefs. The Committee are pleased to know that in pursuance of their recommendation, the Ministry has carried out survey of 171 countries to ascertain the international practice regarding publication of official grand strategy/foreign policy documents. On the basis of the findings of the study, the Ministry has informed that India's practice of articulation of foreign policy through Annual Reports, Parliament discussions, statements of high functionaries etc. is, therefore, in line with international practice of the vast majority of foreign offices. While appreciative of the Ministry's informed reply, the Committee notice that the 23 countries (excluding EU) that publish comprehensive strategy documents about strategic and foreign policy objectives include countries with remarkable global standing such as USA, UK, EU, Russia and others.

The Committee desire that the Ministry should continue its constructive engagement with academicians, domain experts, think tanks and other stakeholders. There is a dire need for wider dissemination of the publications of Reports, Briefs and compendia of the Ministry and its network of think tanks and autonomous bodies. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should reach out to established think tanks in partner countries for a deeper exchange of ideas and policies. In the opinion of the Committee, India as a rising power should publish an official foreign policy document in the form a White Paper or Strategy.

*(Recommendation No. 32)*

7.16 The Committee are aware that Covid-19 has spread to every corner of the globe and has caused disruptions in every aspect of life. This has led to realignment in India's foreign policy in the short term. The Committee are contented to note that during such global crisis India has acted as a responsible international actor by providing Covid-related medical supplies to over 154 countries, more than half of which were grants to our partners in the developing world. Moreover, development and production of Covid vaccines in India, and their export highlighted India's position as a responsible and reliable stakeholder in global health supply chains. The challenges imposed to diplomatic

communication and interaction was adapted by usage of virtual tools. The Committee note that various multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral meetings took place using virtual platforms and voice communications. Vande Bharat Mission, the largest repatriation operation was successfully conducted to facilitate safe travel of international travel of more than 3 million stranded & distressed people during global shutdowns in the wake of the pandemic. The Committee desire to put it on record that the resilience, vigour, prudence displayed by the Ministry during such a crisis has been exemplary and laudable and should keep preparedness for taking a leading role in any such adverse situation.

*(Recommendation No.33)*

**NEW DELHI**  
**21 March, 2022**  
**30 Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)**

**P.P. CHAUDHARY**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee on External Affairs**

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2021-22) HELD ON 28 February, 2022.**

The Committee sat on Monday, the 28 February, 2022 from 1100 hrs. to 1345 hrs. and from 1430 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**  
**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
3. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
4. Smt. Preneet Kaur
5. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
6. Smt. Queen Oja
7. Shri N.K. Premchandran
8. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
9. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
10. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri K. J. Alphons
12. Shri Brijlal
13. Shri Swapan Dasgupta
14. Shri Prakash Javadekar
15. Shri Sanjay Raut
16. Shri K. Somaprasad

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla	Foreign Secretary
2.	Shri Rajit Punhani	Additional Secretary & FA (Home)
3.	Ms. Manika Jain	Additional Secretary (OIA-II)

4.	Shri Rudrendra Tandon	Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC)
5.	Shri Anurag Bhushan	Joint Secretary (OIA-I)
6.	Shri Sevala Naik Mude	Joint Secretary (C & WA)
7.	Shri Puneet R. Kundal	Joint Secretary (E & SA)
8.	Shri T. Armstrong Changsan	Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO
9.	Shri Vipul	Joint Secretary (Gulf)
10.	Shri Anurag Srivastava	Joint Secretary (North)
11.	Shri Anil Kumar Rai	Joint Secretary (Parl. & Coord.)
12.	Ms. Smita Pant	Joint Secretary (BM)
13.	Shri Rajeev Kumar	Deputy Director General (Admn and Esstt)
14.	Shri J.P. Singh	Joint Secretary (PAI)
15.	Dr. Adarsh Swaika	Joint Secretary (ERS & CNV)
16.	Shri Kartik Pande	Joint Secretary (IOR)
17.	Shri D.C. Manjunath	Joint Secretary (GEM)
18.	Dr. Sumit Seth	Joint Secretary (PP & R)
19.	Shri Satish Sivan	Joint Secretary (DPA-III)

### **SECRETARIAT**

1.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	Joint Secretary (RR)
2.	Smt. Maya Lingi	Director (C, R&EA)
3.	K. Muanniang Tunlut	Deputy Secretary (EA)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to the Sitting of the Committee convened to take evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2022-23. He also drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry to Direction 55 (1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. On the request of Members, the Chairperson directed the Principal Witness to give a short briefing on the situation in Ukraine
3. The Foreign Secretary accordingly apprised the Committee about the situation in Ukraine and the measures taken for the safety, security and evacuation of the Indian community there. Members expressed their satisfaction on the initiatives taken by the Government over the serious conflict situation and expressed their hope that remaining students/citizens of India would be evacuated expeditiously. Thereafter, he presented a broad overview of the Ministry's budget, milestones achieved in the current Fiscal and expectations from the coming year. The Members raised relevant questions on various issues which *inter-alia* included reduction in the MEA's budget *vis-à-vis* the Government's overall budget; the challenges faced in project implementation abroad, demand-allocation differential; Zero Based Budgeting process; impact of COVID-19 on implementation of projects; issuance of e-Passport; fluctuating nature of demands and allocations to various countries under developmental cooperation; criteria for project selection under ITEC programmes; budgetary allocation for the Diaspora functions of the Ministry; connectivity projects in our neighbourhood; under-staffing in vital departments & Missions/Posts abroad; current status of the construction of Nalanda University and South Asian University; and challenges being faced in the conduct of India's Foreign Policy, etc.
4. Responding to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee, the Foreign Secretary gave detailed replies related to constructive engagement with Ministry of Finance for better allocation; rationalization of expenditure;;

monitoring mechanism for implementation of international projects; restructuring of organizational structure of MEA, Nirbhaya Fund; and welfare schemes and programmes dealing with Indian Diaspora. Before the Sitting concluded the Chairperson directed that the Ministry should furnish written replies on the various points raised by the Members during discussion to the Secretariat at the earliest.

*The witnesses then withdrew*

*The Committee then adjourned*

A verbatim record of the Proceedings has been kept.

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (2021-22) HELD ON 21 MARCH, 2022**

The Committee sat on Monday, 21 March, 2022 from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Committee Room D, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**1. Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
3. Smt. Preneet Kaur
4. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
5. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
6. Shri P. C. Mohan
7. Shri Ritesh Pandey
8. Shri N.K. Premachandran
9. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
10. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
11. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer

**Rajya Sabha**

12. Shri K. J. Alphons
13. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
14. Shri Brijlal
15. Shri Prakash Javadekar
16. Shri K. Somaprasad

**Secretariat**

- |    |                      |   |                  |
|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai      | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt Maya Lingi       | - | Director         |
| 3. | K. Muanniang Tunglut | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members to the Sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee took up for consideration the following two draft Reports:-



(i) Draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2022-23.

(ii) \*\*\*\*\*

4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Reports. The Members suggested some minor modifications. After deliberations the Committee adopted the two draft Reports with minor modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports incorporating the suggestions made by the members and present the same to Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

**Annexure I**

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Name of Mission</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>	
<b>1</b>	Embassy of India, Abidjan
<b>2</b>	Embassy of India, Addis Ababa
<b>3</b>	Embassy of India, Algiers
<b>4</b>	Embassy of India, Antananarivo
<b>5</b>	Embassy of India, Asmara
<b>6</b>	Embassy of India, Bamako
<b>7</b>	Embassy of India, Lome
<b>8</b>	Embassy of India, Brazzaville
<b>9</b>	Embassy of India, Cairo
<b>10</b>	Embassy of India, Conakry
<b>11</b>	Embassy of India, Dakar
<b>12</b>	Embassy of India, Djibouti
<b>13</b>	Embassy of India, Freetown
<b>14</b>	Embassy of India, Juba
<b>15</b>	Embassy of India, Khartoum
<b>16</b>	Embassy of India, Kigali
<b>17</b>	Embassy of India, Kinshasa
<b>18</b>	Embassy of India, Luanda
<b>19</b>	Embassy of India, Malabo
<b>20</b>	Embassy of India, Monrovia
<b>21</b>	Embassy of India, Niamey
<b>22</b>	Embassy of India, Nouakchott
<b>23</b>	Embassy of India, Ouagadougou
<b>24</b>	Embassy of India, Rabat
<b>25</b>	Embassy of India, Sao Tome
<b>26</b>	Embassy of India, Tripoli (resident in Tunis)

<b>27</b>	Embassy of India, Tunis
<b>28</b>	Embassy of India, Yaoundé
<b>29</b>	High Commission of India, Abuja
<b>30</b>	High Commission of India, Accra
<b>31</b>	High Commission of India, Dar Es Salaam
<b>32</b>	High Commission of India, Gaborone
<b>33</b>	High Commission of India, Harare
<b>34</b>	High Commission of India, Kampala
<b>35</b>	High Commission of India, Lilongwe
<b>36</b>	High Commission of India, Lusaka
<b>37</b>	High Commission of India, Maputo
<b>38</b>	High Commission of India, Mbabane
<b>39</b>	High Commission of India, Nairobi
<b>40</b>	High Commission of India, Port Louis
<b>41</b>	High Commission of India, Pretoria
<b>42</b>	High Commission of India, Victoria (Mahe)
<b>43</b>	High Commission of India, Windhoek
<b>44</b>	Consulate General of India, Cape Town
<b>45</b>	Consulate General of India, Durban
<b>46</b>	Consulate General of India, Johannesburg
<b>47</b>	Consulate General of India, Saint Denis
<b>48</b>	Consulate General of India, Zanzibar
<b>49</b>	Consulate General of India, Lagos
<b>50</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Mombasa
<b>ASIA</b>	
<b>51</b>	Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi
<b>52</b>	Embassy of India, Amman
<b>53</b>	Embassy of India, Ashgabat
<b>54</b>	Embassy of India, Astana (Nur-Sultan)

<b>55</b>	Embassy of India, Baghdad
<b>56</b>	Embassy of India, Manama, Bahrain
<b>57</b>	Embassy of India, Bangkok
<b>58</b>	Embassy of India, Baku
<b>59</b>	Embassy of India, Beijing
<b>60</b>	Embassy of India, Beirut
<b>61</b>	Embassy of India, Bishkek
<b>62</b>	Embassy of India, Damascus
<b>63</b>	Embassy of India, Doha
<b>64</b>	Embassy of India, Dushanbe
<b>65</b>	Embassy of India, Hanoi
<b>66</b>	Embassy of India, Jakarta
<b>67</b>	Embassy of India, Kabul (temporarily closed)
<b>68</b>	Embassy of India, Kathmandu
<b>69</b>	Embassy of India, Kuwait City
<b>70</b>	Embassy of India, Manila
<b>71</b>	Embassy of India, Muscat
<b>72</b>	Embassy of India, Phnom Penh (temporarily closed)
<b>73</b>	Embassy of India, Pyong Yang
<b>74</b>	Embassy of India, Riyadh
<b>75</b>	Embassy of India, Sanaá (resident in Djibouti)
<b>76</b>	Embassy of India, Seoul
<b>77</b>	Embassy of India, Tashkent
<b>78</b>	Embassy of India, Tehran
<b>79</b>	Embassy of India, Tel Aviv
<b>80</b>	Embassy of India, Thimphu
<b>81</b>	Embassy of India, Tokyo
<b>82</b>	Embassy of India, Ulaan Baataar
<b>83</b>	Embassy of India, Vientiane

<b>84</b>	Embassy of India, Yangon
<b>85</b>	Embassy of India, Yerevan
<b>86</b>	High Commission of India, Bandar Seri Begawan
<b>87</b>	High Commission of India, Colombo
<b>88</b>	High Commission of India, Dhaka
<b>89</b>	High Commission of India, Islamabad
<b>90</b>	High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur
<b>91</b>	High Commission of India, Male
<b>92</b>	High Commission of India, Singapore
<b>93</b>	ASEAN Mission in Jakarta
<b>94</b>	Consulate General of India, Bali
<b>95</b>	Consulate General of India, Bandar Abbas (temporarily closed)
<b>96</b>	Consulate General of India, Birgunj
<b>97</b>	Consulate General of India, Chiangmai
<b>98</b>	Consulate General of India, Dubai
<b>99</b>	Consulate General of India, Erbil
<b>100</b>	Consulate General of India, Guangzhou
<b>101</b>	Consulate General of India, Hambantota
<b>102</b>	Consulate General of India, Herat (temporarily closed)
<b>103</b>	Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City
<b>104</b>	Consulate General of India, Hong Kong
<b>105</b>	Consulate General of India, Jaffna
<b>106</b>	Consulate General of India, Jalalabad (temporarily closed)
<b>107</b>	Consulate General of India, Jeddah
<b>108</b>	Consulate General of India, Kandahar (temporarily closed)
<b>109</b>	Consulate General of India, Mandalay
<b>110</b>	Consulate General of India, Mazar e Sharif (temporarily closed)
<b>111</b>	Consulate General of India, Medan
<b>112</b>	Consulate General of India, Osaka Kobe

<b>113</b>	Consulate General of India, Phuentsholing
<b>114</b>	Consulate General of India, Shanghai
<b>115</b>	Consulate General of India, Sittwe
<b>116</b>	Consulate General of India, Vladivostok
<b>117</b>	Consulate General of India, Zahidan
<b>118</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Chittagong
<b>119</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Khulna
<b>120</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy
<b>121</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Rajshahi
<b>122</b>	Assistant High Commission of India, Sylhet
<b>123</b>	Representative Office of India, Almaty
<b>124</b>	Representative Office of India, Ramallah
<b>EUROPE</b>	
<b>125</b>	Embassy of India, Ankara
<b>126</b>	Embassy of India, Athens
<b>127</b>	Embassy of India, Belgrade
<b>128</b>	Embassy of India, Berlin
<b>129</b>	Embassy of India, Berne
<b>130</b>	Embassy of India, Bratislava
<b>131</b>	Embassy of India, Brussels
<b>132</b>	Embassy of India, Bucharest
<b>133</b>	Embassy of India, Budapest
<b>134</b>	Embassy of India, Copenhagen
<b>135</b>	Embassy of India, Dublin
<b>136</b>	Embassy of India, The Hague
<b>137</b>	Embassy of India, Helsinki
<b>138</b>	Embassy of India, Kyiv
<b>139</b>	Embassy of India, Lisbon
<b>140</b>	Embassy of India, Ljubljana

<b>141</b>	Embassy of India, Madrid
<b>142</b>	Embassy of India, Minsk
<b>143</b>	Embassy of India, Moscow
<b>144</b>	Embassy of India, Oslo
<b>145</b>	Embassy of India, Paris
<b>146</b>	Embassy of India, Prague
<b>147</b>	Embassy of India, Reykjavik
<b>148</b>	Embassy of India, Rome
<b>149</b>	Embassy of India, Sofia
<b>150</b>	Embassy of India, Stockholm
<b>151</b>	Embassy of India, Tallinn
<b>152</b>	Embassy of India, Vienna
<b>153</b>	Embassy of India, Warsaw
<b>154</b>	Embassy of India, Zagreb
<b>155</b>	High Commission of India, Nicosia
<b>156</b>	High Commission of India, London
<b>157</b>	High Commission of India, Valletta, Malta
<b>158</b>	Permanent Mission of India, Geneva
<b>159</b>	Permanent Delegation of India, Paris
<b>160</b>	Consulate General of India, Birmingham
<b>161</b>	Consulate General of India, Edinburgh
<b>162</b>	Consulate General of India, Frankfurt
<b>163</b>	Consulate General of India, Geneva
<b>164</b>	Consulate General of India, Hamburg
<b>165</b>	Consulate General of India, Istanbul
<b>166</b>	Consulate General of India, Milan
<b>167</b>	Consulate General of India, Munich
<b>168</b>	Consulate General of India, St Petersburg
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>	

<b>169</b>	Embassy of India, Guatemala City
<b>170</b>	Embassy of India, Havana
<b>171</b>	Embassy of India, Mexico City
<b>172</b>	Embassy of India, Panama City
<b>173</b>	Embassy of India, Santo Domingo
<b>174</b>	Embassy of India, Washington
<b>175</b>	High Commission of India, Kingston
<b>176</b>	High Commission of India, Ottawa
<b>177</b>	High Commission of India, Port of Spain
<b>178</b>	Permanent Mission of India, New York
<b>179</b>	Consulate General of India, Atlanta
<b>180</b>	Consulate General of India, Chicago
<b>181</b>	Consulate General of India, Houston
<b>182</b>	Consulate General of India, New York
<b>183</b>	Consulate General of India, San Francisco
<b>184</b>	Consulate General of India, Toronto
<b>185</b>	Consulate General of India, Vancouver
<b>OCEANIA</b>	
<b>186</b>	High Commission of India, Canberra
<b>187</b>	High Commission of India, Port Moresby
<b>188</b>	High Commission of India, Suva
<b>189</b>	High Commission of India, Wellington
<b>190</b>	Consulate General of India, Melbourne
<b>191</b>	Consulate General of India, Perth
<b>192</b>	Consulate General of India, Sydney
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>	
<b>193</b>	Embassy of India, Asuncion
<b>194</b>	Embassy of India, Bogota
<b>195</b>	Embassy of India, Brasilia



<b>196</b>	Embassy of India, Buenos Aires
<b>197</b>	Embassy of India, Caracas
<b>198</b>	Embassy of India, Lima
<b>199</b>	Embassy of India, Paramaribo
<b>200</b>	Embassy of India, Santiago
<b>201</b>	High Commission of India, George Town
<b>202</b>	Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo

<b>Missions that have been sanctioned by the Cabinet</b>		
<b>203</b>	Embassy of India, N'Djamena	Africa
<b>204</b>	Embassy of India, Bissau	Africa
<b>205</b>	Embassy of India, Mogadishu	Africa
<b>206</b>	Embassy of India, Praia	Africa

**Annexure-II**

**Package wise status of construction work of Nalanda University**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Package No.</b>	<b>Package Description</b>	<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Physical Progress (%)</b>
1	1A	Construction of Internal Roads, Earthwork, Side Drains & Water Bodies	MGCPL	Completed	100.00%
2	1B	Construction of Academic and Administrative Buildings (Non Residential Buildings)	NCCL	Work nearing completion	92.59%
3	1C	Construction of Residential Buildings	JMC	Work nearing completion	71.5%
4	2	Central Treatment Station, WTP, TTPS for Sewage Treatment Plant, Drinking water points etc	Sterling & Willson, Kolkata	Work is in progress.	67.5%
5	3A	HVAC works for Outreach Buildings	Suvidha Engineers (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Work nearing completion	87%

Sl. No.	Package No.	Package Description	Contractor Name	Status	Physical Progress (%)
6	3B	Biogas based co-generation engine and Bio methenation plant		Tendering in process	
7	3C	HVAC system for residential & non-residential parcel	Unique Engineer Pvt. Ltd.	Work nearing completion	88%
8	4A	High Side Electrical Work for Outreach Building	Sterling &Willson, Kolkata	Completed	100%
9	4B	High side electrical work	Sterling &Willson, Kolkata	Work in progress	65.8%
10	4C	5000 KW AC grid connected ground mounted solar PV system under EPC mode	BHEL	Work in progress	45.59%
11	4D	DG sets for administrative and school building	ELMECH Engineers	Completed	100%
12	5A	Data cabling, networking, CCTV, FAS and ACS Works	Sterling &Willson, Kolkata	Work is in progress	67%
13	5B	Audio and video	BECIL	Work	82%

Sl. No.	Package No.	Package Description	Contractor Name	Status	Physical Progress (%)
		systems for priority buildings		nearing completion	
14	5B1	Audio and Video systems for the Part of the Priority Buildings	Future Netwings Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Work nearing completion	90%
15	5C	Audio and video systems for the buildings (Other than Priority Buildings)	BECIL	Work nearing completion	74.17%
16	6A	Supply & safe keeping of light fixture for various buildings of Non-residential parcel	Sterling & Willson, Kolkata	Work is in progress	62.8%
17	6B	Supply & safe keeping of light fixture for various buildings of Residential parcel	Hitech Erectors Pvt Ltd	Work is in progress	22.38%
18	7A	Horticulture works for east part of proposed permanent campus	Vaish Construction, Punjab	Work nearing completion	89%
19	7B	Horticulture & landscaping works for west part of Campus	Landscape Horticulture Services Pvt Ltd.	Work awarded on 27.12.21. Contractor started mobilization.	

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Package No.</b>	<b>Package Description</b>	<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Physical Progress (%)</b>
20	8A	Interior works for priority buildings	Diamond Power Projects Pvt. Ltd.	Work terminated due to fraudulent practice by the Contractor	34.00%
21	8C	Interior works for remaining buildings		Tendering in process. Likely to be awarded by Feb 2022.	
22	--	Construction of Boundary wall	Dayanand Pd. Sinha & Co.	Work in Progress	25%
23	9	Construction of Central Library, 2000 seater Auditorium, Cafeteria and 500 user Yoga cum Meditation Hall in EPC mode		Tendering in process	Bids Received. Evaluation process completed. Will be awarded by 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

**Annexure-III**

**Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2018-19**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Training programme for Cabinet Secretariat A Grade Officers	5-6 Apr 2018
2.	Basic Training Module	13-20 April, 2018
3.	MTS Training Programme	26 April – 03 May, 2018
4.	IVFRT Training Programme	01-04 May, 2018
5.	ASEAN Students Visit at PBK	10 May, 2018
6.	Accounts Training Program	28-29 May, 2018
7.	69 <sup>th</sup> I-MAS Training Program (1 <sup>st</sup> Batch)	30 May – 05 June, 2018
8.	69 <sup>th</sup> I-MAS Training Program (2 <sup>nd</sup> Batch)	06-12 June, 2018
9.	69 <sup>th</sup> I-MAS Training Program (3 <sup>rd</sup> Batch)	13-19 June, 2018
10.	Promotion related Training program for Section Officers and Private Secretaries	14-15 June, 2018
11.	69 <sup>th</sup> I-MAS Training Program (4 <sup>th</sup> Batch)	20-26 June, 2018
12.	Commercial Representative for EU Region	25-29 Jun 2018
13.	Mid Career Training Programme –III for 1992-93 batches	3-6 Jul 2018
14.	Typing Test for DR ASOs	05 July, 2018
15.	Promotion related training program for ASOs, ASOs (Cypher), PAs, SSAs, JSAs & Stenos	09-10 July, 2018

16.	Mid Career Training Programme–I for DS/US level officers	9-11 Jul 2018 & 23-27 Jul 2018
17.	Basic Training Module	18-25 July, 2018
18.	IVFRT Training Programme	01-07 August, 2018
19.	Training programme for Cabinet Secretariat A Grade Officers	13-14 Aug 2018
20.	Mid Career Training Programme –II for 2003 & 2004 Batches	3-7 Sept 2018
21.	Training Programme of Defence Attaché	8-12 Oct 2018
22.	Indo-US Advance Licensing & Enforcement Exchange	29 Oct – 2 Nov 2018
23.	Training Programme for Programme Directors of ICCR	30-31 Oct 2018
24.	Training Programme for Commercial Representative for Gulf, Wana, WA, CA, Eurasia and SA Regions	12-16 Nov 2018
25.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2018 Batch	10 Dec 2018 – 31 May 2019
26.	Accounts Module	03 - 04 Jan 2019
27.	72 <sup>nd</sup> IMAS	07 -25 Jan 2019
28.	72 <sup>nd</sup> IMAS Retest	01 Feb 2019
29.	Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat officers	19-20 Feb 2019
30.	IVFRT	21 - 27 Feb 2019
31.	Training Programme for National Security Council Secretariat officers	22-Feb-2019
32.	Typing Test for ASOs	13 Mar 2019

33.	Promotion Related Training for ASOs and PAs	25 – 29 Mar 2019
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**Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2019-20**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Promotion Related Training for JSAs, SSAs and Stenos	08 - 12 April 2019
2.	Training Programme for Commercial Representatives posted in Africa and America region	8-12 April 2019
3.	Training Programme for Directors of Indian Cultural Centres	1-2 May 2019
4.	Promotion Related Training for SOs and PSs	27 May- 10 Jun 2019
5.	Training module for Defence Attaches	10-14 June 2019
6.	Accounts Module	14- 17 June 2019
7.	Promotion Related Training for MTS and Staff Car Drivers	17- 21 June 2019
8.	73 <sup>rd</sup> IMAS	18 June- 15 July 2019
9.	Typing test	04 July 2019
10.	Workshop on online RTI	9 July 2019
11.	73 <sup>rd</sup> IMAS Retest	23 July 2019
12.	IVFRT	29 July- 02 August 2019
13.	Accounts Module	19- 20 August 2019



14.	74 <sup>th</sup> IMAS	21 Aug.- 25 Sep. 2019
15.	Mid Career Training Programme-I for Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary level IFS Officers	16-24 September 2019
16.	Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat 'A' level officers	25-26 September 2019
17.	Mid Career Training Programme-II for Director level IFS officers	30 Sep-4 Oct 2019
18.	74 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Retest	03 October 2019
19.	Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media	16-22 October 2019
20.	Typing Test for ASOs	18 October 2019
21.	Mid Career Training Programme-III for Joint Secretary level IFS Officers	29 Oct-1 Nov 2019
22.	IVFRT	05- 11 November 2019
23.	Training Programme for Performing Art Teachers at Indian Cultural Centres	18-22 November 2019
24.	Accounts Module	28-29 November 2019
25.	75 <sup>st</sup> IMAS	02-30 December 2019
26.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2019 Batch	09 Dec 2019– 24 Jul 2020
27.	Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat officers	23-24 December 2019
28.	75 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Retest	14 January 2020

29.	Typing Test for ASOs	16 January 020
30.	Workshop on Technical Risk Assessment of Dual-Use Exports (TRADE) by US Dept of Energy	5-7 February 2020
31.	IVFRT	12-18 February 2020
32.	Induction Training Programme for DR ASOs	17-28 February 2020
33.	Promotion related Training Programme for SOs and PSs	16 March- 27 March 2020 (Virtual from 23-27 March)

**Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer for the year 2020-21**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Promotion Related Training for JSAs, SSAs and Stenos	08 - 12 April 2019
2.	Special Course for Interpreters Cadre	
3.	76th IMAS	10 - 12 Jun
4.	IVFRT	13 Jun
5.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs and PAs	31 Aug - 04 Sep
6.	Stenography test for PAs/Stenographers	09 Sep
7.	IVFRT	14 – 15 Sep
8.	Typing Test for ASOs	25 Sep
9.	Promotion related Training Programme for SSAs, JSAs and Stenographers	28 Sep – 05 Oct
10.	Supplementary MCTP-III	05 - 09 Oct
11.	77th IMAS	12 - 16 Oct
12.	Training Module on Social Media for HOM/HOPs	12 - 16 Oct
13.	MCTP-I	23 Nov – 04 Dec
14.	IVFRT	24 - 25 Nov
15.	78th IMAS	14 - 18 Dec
16.	Induction Training Programme for IFS OTs of 2020 Batch	21 Dec - 11 Jun 2021
17.	1st Special Training Programme for officers of States & Union Territories on Economic & Commercial Diplomacy	04 – 08 Jan
18.	Typing Test for ASOs	13 Jan
19.	IVFRT	20 - 22 Jan

20.	Stenography test	03 Feb
21.	2nd Special Training Programme for officers of States & Union Territories on Economic & Commercial Diplomacy	08 - 12 Feb
22.	Accounts Training Programme	18 - 19 Feb
23.	79th IMAS Training Programme	22 Feb - 05 Mar
24.	IVFRT e-FRRO module on PAP/RAP	18 Mar
25.	Promotion related Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers and Personal Assistants	22- 26 Mar

**Annexure-IV**

**Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2018-19**

S.No	Training Courses	Duration
1.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Course for Somali Diplomats	9 May – 8 Jun 2018
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for the Gambian Diplomats	20 June-20 July 2018
3.	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Nigerian Diplomats	30 July-10 August 2018
4.	1 <sup>st</sup> Familiarisation Programme for Resident HOMs	20-24 August 2018
5.	66 <sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats	12 Sep – 12 Oct 2018
6.	1 <sup>st</sup> Joint Course for Afghan Diplomats	15 Oct -26 Oct 2018
7.	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Tunisian Diplomats	29 Oct-16 Nov 2018
8.	4 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for ASEM Diplmats	14-20 Nov 2018
9.	12 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats	14-27 Nov 2018
10.	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Myanmar Diplomats	14-27 Nov 2018
11.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Special Course for Bangladeshi Diplomats	19 Nov-2 Dec 2018
12.	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Iranian Diplomats	26 Nov-7 Dec 2018
13.	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme	14 Jan-1 Feb 2019
14.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Course for Syrian Diplomats	4-16 Feb 2019
15.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Familiarisation Programme for Resident HoMs	18-22 Feb 2019
16.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Course for Sudanese Diplomats	25 Feb-9 Mar 2019
17.	67 <sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats	13 Mar-12 Apr 2019

**Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2019-20**

S.No	Training Courses	Duration
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Moroccan Diplomats	15-27 Apr 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Senegalese Diplomats	15-27 Apr 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Angolan Diplomats	6-18 May 2019

•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Botswana Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Liberian Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Sao Tome & Principe Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Equatorial Guinea Diplomats	6-18 May 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Egyptian Diplomats	10-22 Jun 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Central Asian Diplomats	24 Jun-6 Jul 2019
•	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats	24 Jun-6 Jul 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for League of Arab States	22-28 Jul 2019
•	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Training Prog. for CARICOM Diplomats	12-23 Aug 2019
•	3 <sup>rd</sup> Familiarisation Programme for Resident HoMs	19-23 Aug 2019
•	3 <sup>rd</sup> Special Course for Iraqi Diplomats	26 Aug-7 Sept 2019
•	2 <sup>nd</sup> Special Course for Palestinian Diplomats	2-14 Sept 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Libyan Diplomats	6-21 Sept 2019
•	68 <sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats	16 Sep-11 Oct 2019
•	5 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for ASEM Diplomats	14-21 Oct 2019
•	13 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats	14-26 Oct 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Mongolian Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
•	3 <sup>rd</sup> Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Dominican Republic Diplomats	28 Oct-9 Nov 2019
•	2 <sup>nd</sup> India-China Joint Capacity Building Programme for Afghan Diplomats	11-23 Nov 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Beninese Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Cameroonian Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Democratic Republic of Congo Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Gabonese Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Cote d'Ivoire Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Kenyan Diplomats	25 Nov – 7 Dec 2019
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for Namibian & Malawian Diplomats	1-13 Dec 2019

•	4 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for Bangladeshi Diplomats	9-22 Dec 2019
•	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme	13-31 Jan 2020
•	1 <sup>st</sup> Special Course for BIMSTEC Diplomats	03-15 Feb 2020
•	3 <sup>rd</sup> Special Course for Syrian Diplomats	24 Feb – 07 March 2020
•	4 <sup>th</sup> Special Course for Iraqi Diplomats	24 Feb – 07 March 2020

**Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats for the year 2020-21**

S.No	Training Courses	Duration
1.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Suriname	14-25 Sep
2.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures on Introduction to India 2020 in association with India Foundation	15-16 Oct
3.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures on Introduction to India 2020 Part-II	19-20 Nov
4.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Suriname on Commercial and Economic Diplomacy	07-18 Dec
5.	1st Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	18-22 Jan
6.	2nd Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	22-26 Feb
7.	3rd Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	22-26 Mar

**Table A - Survey of Countries Publishing Grand Strategy Documents**

S.No	Country	Grand Strategy Y/N	Remarks
1	Afghanistan	N	Nil
2	Albania	N	Nil
3	Algeria	N	Nil
4	Angola	N	Nil
5	Antigua and Barbuda	N	Nil
6	Argentina	N	Nil
7	Armenia	N	Nil
8	Australia	Y	<p>Australian Government released the Foreign Policy White Paper in 2017. The White Paper "sets out a comprehensive framework to advance Australia's security and prosperity in a contested and competitive world.</p> <p>However, the White Paper does not mention "Grand Strategy" anywhere in the document. It presents an overview of the challenges and priorities of Australia's foreign policy, encompassing a wide array of subjects such as defence, trade, investments,</p>



			<p>internal security etc.</p> <p>The document primarily has inter-ministerial task-cutting.</p>
9	Austria	Y	<p>Austria's Department of Security Policy Affairs has published "Austrian Security Strategy" - a document primarily consisting of internal and external security matters.</p>
10	Azerbaijan	Y	<p>The Administrative Department of the President has prepared a document "Azerbaijan in the International Arena" - primarily enlisting goals and means of Azerbaijan's foreign policy and its relations with international actors.</p> <p>However, the document does not mention the word "Grand Strategy".</p>
11	Bahamas	N	Nil
12	Bahrain	N	Nil
13	Bangladesh	N	Nil
14	Belarus	N	Nil
15	Belgium	Y	<p>The Council of Ministers of Belgium has prepared a document titled "Comprehensive Approach - Strategy Note". It enlists the guiding principles of Belgium foreign policy, the challenges it faces and the means to resolve them.</p> <p>The document does not mention the word "Grand Strategy".</p>

16	Belize	N	Nil
17	Benin	N	
18	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Y	It has a Foreign policy strategy document (2018-23). This has been released by the Head of the State.
19	Botswana	N	Nil
20	Bhutan	N	Nil
21	Bolivia	N	Nil
22	Brazil	N	Nil
23	Brunei Darussalam	N	Nil
24	Bulgaria	N	Nil
25	Burundi	N	Nil
26	Burkina Faso	N	Nil
27	Cabo Verde	N	Nil
28	Cambodia	N	Nil
29	Cameroon	N	Nil
30	Canada	N	The Canadian government does, from time to time, produce white papers on its foreign policy goals and objectives as well as general directions. In January 2020, the then Foreign Minister of Canada

			had made a public announcement that the government would soon be producing a white paper on “Canada’s Feminist Foreign Policy”, however, this document has so far not been made public.
31	Central African Republic (CAR)	N	Nil
32	Chad	N	
33	Chile	N	Nil
34	China	N	China does not have a publicly articulated cogent and comprehensive grand strategy.
35	Colombia	N	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published “ Principles and guidelines of Colombian foreign policy - Responsible, innovative and constructive foreign policy 2018-2022”.</p> <p>It outlines the goals and principles of colombian foreign policy and is not an elaborative document.</p> <p>The document does not mention “Grand Strategy”.</p> <p>Mission has shared three links:  <a href="https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/principios-y-lineamientos-la-politica-exterior-colombiana">https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/principios-y-lineamientos-la-politica-exterior-colombiana</a>  <a href="https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/principles-and-outlines-">https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/principles-and-outlines-</a></p>

			colombian-foreign-policy.
36	Comoros	N	Nil
37	Commonwealth of Dominica	N	Nil
38	Cote d' Ivoire	N	Nil
39	Costa Rica	Y	The Ministry of External Relations has published "Institutional Strategic Plan 2021-2025" - a guiding document for the government on foreign policy matters.  The document does not mention "grand strategy".
40	Croatia	N	Nil
41	Cuba	N	Mission has shared a document containing the vision of the Ministry
42	Cyprus	N	Mission has shared a document containing the Mission statement of the Ministry
43	Czech Republic	Y	The Czech Republic has Foreign Policy document. The details of this document is available at: <a href="https://www.mzv.cz/file/1574645/Concept_of_the_Czech_Republic_s_Foreign_Policy.pdf">https://www.mzv.cz/file/1574645/Concept_of_the_Czech_Republic_s_Foreign_Policy.pdf</a> .
44	Denmark	N	The mission mentioned that the country is in the process of formulating one.
45	Djibouti	N	Nil

46	Dominican Republic	N	Nil
47	DPRK	N	The Mission has shared a link in this regard, <a href="https://www.mfa.gov.kp/en/overview/">https://www.mfa.gov.kp/en/overview/</a> .
48	Estonia	Y	The Foreign Policy Strategy of Estonia has been drawn up for the first time and it covers the state's foreign policy activities up to 2030. It was released in May 2020.  <a href="https://vm.ee/sites/default/files/Estonia_for_UN/Rasmus/estonian_foreign_policy_strategy_2030_final.pdf">https://vm.ee/sites/default/files/Estonia_for_UN/Rasmus/estonian_foreign_policy_strategy_2030_final.pdf</a>
49	Finland	Y	On 29 October 2020, the Finnish Government adopted the Government Report on Finnish Foreign and Security Policy and submitted it to Parliament. The report, being drawn up once during each government term, assesses Finland's foreign and security policy operating environment and defines the goals and priorities for Finland's actions within the next few years. The Report is available at <a href="https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162515">https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162515</a>
50	Ireland	Y	The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has prepared a short document called "Statement of Strategy".  It outlines the broad objectives, underlying principles and targets of the Ministry.  However, it does not mention the word "Grand Strategy"  The mission has shared following links in this regard:

			<p>The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Statement of Strategy - 2017-2020 may be seen at the following link:  <a href="https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/aboutus/DFAT-Statement-of-Strategy-2017-2020.pdf">https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/aboutus/DFAT-Statement-of-Strategy-2017-2020.pdf</a></p> <p>The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs Roles and Policies (including strategies) may be seen at: <a href="https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/">https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/</a></p>
51	DR Congo	N	Nil
52	Ecuador	Y	Mission has shared a link: <a href="https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/agenda_politica_2017baja.pdf">https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/agenda_politica_2017baja.pdf</a>
53	Egypt	N	Nil
54	El Salvador	N	
55	Equatorial Guinea	N	Nil
56	The European Union	Y	Mission remarked that European Union Global Strategy (EUGS) adopted on 28 June 2016, replaced European Security Strategy. Mission furnished a document titled "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe".
57	Fiji	N	Nil
58	France	N	Nil
59	Gabon	N	Nil

60	Guyana	N	Nil
61	Germany	N	<p>The website of the German Foreign Office contains a webpage titled 'Germany's foreign and European policy principles' (<a href="https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/policy-principles/229790">https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/policy-principles/229790</a>), which contains information regarding the guiding principles of Germany's foreign policy on various issues such as relations with Europe, transatlantic partnership, commitment to multilateral international order, democracy, rule of law and human rights, etc. The individual sections have summarised information on the subject and contain links which direct to more detailed information.</p> <p>This is the only official resource available on Germany's overall foreign policy strategy as per our information. No document or policy paper on Germany's grand foreign policy strategy could be found.</p>
62	Ghana	N	Mission said that Ghana's foreign policy guidelines are enshrined in their Constitution
63	Greece	N	The Mission communicated that The Greek Foreign Ministry was requested to confirm whether they have Foreign Policy Strategy/document. Their response is that they are not in a position to give any definite answer on this.
64	Grenada	N	Nil
65	Guatemala	N	Nil
66	Guinea Bissau	N	Nil

67	Haiti	N	Nil
68	Honduras	N	Nil
69	Hungary	N	Nil
70	Iceland	N	Nil
71	Israel	N	Nil
72	Indonesia	N	Nil
73	Iran	N	Nil
74	Iraq	N	Nil
75	Italy	N	Nil
76	Jamaica	N	Nil
77	Japan	N	<p>Japan does not have any grand Foreign Policy document/strategy. Instead, Japan has annual Foreign Policy Report; "Diplomatic Bluebook "</p> <p>(<a href="https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html">https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html</a>) that details its Foreign Policy priorities and engagement with respective countries/regions. There is no other such official document on Foreign Policy, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Our interlocutors from MOFA, Japan, have also shared that there is so-called National Security Strategy. Please see links below for details.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/siryou/131217anzenhoshou/nss-e.pdf">https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/siryou/131217anzenhoshou/nss-e.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/siryou/131217anzenhoshou/pamphlet_en.p">https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/siryou/131217anzenhoshou/pamphlet_en.p</a></p>



			df
78	Jordan	N	Jordan has been a strong US ally in the region and believes in tactical understandings with major powers/countries instead of an independent and strong foreign policy strategy.
79	Kazakhstan	N	Nil
80	Kenya	N	Nil
81	Kyrgyz Republic	N	Nil
82	Kuwait	N	<p>Kuwait does not have a single document articulating grand strategy or foreign policy strategy; however New Kuwait Vision 2035 is a strategic vision focused on developmental plan with elements of regional and global foreign policy and strategy incorporated in it. An official Summary of the New Kuwait Vision 2035 is given at: <a href="https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/kuwait-state/kuwait-vision-2035/">https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/kuwait-state/kuwait-vision-2035/</a>.</p> <p>The plan may be accessed at: <a href="https://issuu.com/psc_kuwait/docs/nk2035">https://issuu.com/psc_kuwait/docs/nk2035</a>.</p>
83	Lao PDR	N	Nil
84	Latvia	N	Nil
85	Lebanon	N	Nil
86	Lesotho	N	The strategy document has been shared on the facebook page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
87	Liberia	N	Nil

88	Luxembourg	N	The MFEA, Luxembourg does not have any standing note/approach/policy document guiding or shaping its foreign policy. Each year, the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs delivers the foreign policy statement to the Chamber of Deputies (Luxembourgish Parliament). This speech enables the head of Luxembourg's diplomatic service to present the broad outline of the country's foreign and European policy.
89	Madagascar	N	Nil
90	Malaysia	N	Nil
91	Malawi	Y	Mission has forwarded a document on the Foreign & Diaspora Policy received by local Foreign Office.
92	Maldives	N	Nil
93	Malta	N	Malta does not have any Grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy. A link to the Strategic Objectives as mentioned on the website of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta is as follows: <a href="https://foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Pages/Strategic-Objectives.aspx">https://foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Pages/Strategic-Objectives.aspx</a>
94	Mauritius	N	Nil
95	Mexico	N	Nil

96	Moldova	N	Nil
97	Mongolia	N	Nil
98	Montenegro	N	Nil
99	Morocco	N	Nil
100	Mozambique	N	Mozambique does not have any Grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy
101	Myanmar	N	Nil
102	Namibia	N	Nil
103	Nepal	N	The Mission has attached Nepal's Foreign Policy document in original (Nepali) and in-house English translation of the same. The document looks more like an annual report.
104	New Zealand	Y	New Zealand has a foreign policy strategy document called "Strategic Intentions".
105	Netherlands	N	Nil
106	Nicaragua	N	Nicaragua does not seem to have any grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy and as per their Foreign Office the fundamental rules guiding their foreign policy are respect for sovereignty, neither interference nor acceptance of pressure from other states, friendship, solidarity and cooperation.

107	Niger	N	Nil
108	Nigeria	Y	Nigeria has a National Security Strategy document. The document appears to be a all of Government approach with the preface and forward penned by the President and National Security Advisor
109	North Macedonia	N	North Macedonia is awaiting the commencement of EU accession negotiations this year and also does not seem to have a grand foreign policy document or strategy either, as per our research and enquiries.
110	Norway	N	The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a document titled 'Norway-India 2030' detailing the government's strategy for cooperation with India. As far as foreign policy strategy in general is concerned, the Foreign Minister of Norway, Ms. IneEriksenSoreide, had presented a speech to the Storting (Parliament) in March 2020 in this regard.
111	Oman	N	Mission has sent a document titled "Principles - A good Neighbour".
112	Pakistan	N	Nil
113	Palestine	N	Nil
114	Panama	N	In Panama each government lays out the way forward for it's five years of governance in various strategic plan documents . The last government of President Varela had made a five year plan for the Ministry of External Affairs of Panama (MIRE), a 52 page document with is enclosed along with the translation of the most relevant pages for perusal.

			<p>In 2015 the Foreign Ministry also issued two major documents. The first being Panama Cooperates 2030, which was the National plan of International Cooperation of the Republic of Panama. It listed the Strategies, Objectives and Instruments of International Cooperation of Panama in the era of the sustainable Development Objectives. MIRE also published a national strategy for cultural diplomacy to expand the traditional scope of diplomacy. A copy each of both these documents in English is attached for ready reference.</p> <p>The new government under President Laurentino Cortizo took over in July 2019 and a new Foreign Policy strategy is being finalized. The local interlocutors have been approached for the same and the Mission will forward it to the Ministry as soon as the same is received.</p>
115	Papua New Guinea	N	Nil
116	Paraguay	N	Nil
117	Philippines	N	Nil
118	Poland	Y	The Mission has attached a document titled “the Polish Foreign Policy Strategy 2017-2021”
119	Portugal	N	The Mission tried to search for Portugal's 'Grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy' but was not able to find any specific document in this regard.

120	Peru	Y	Peru has a five-year foreign policy document titled "Multi-annual Strategic Plan for Foreign Affairs of Peru for 2015-2021"
121	Qatar	N	Nil
122	Republic of Congo	N	Nil
123	Republic of Guinea	N	Nil
124	Republic of Korea	N	The Republic of Korea publishes a Diplomatic White Paper on an annual basis.
125	Romania	N	Nil
126	Russia	Y	Russia has a Foreign Policy Concept (approved by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on November 30, 2016).
127	Rwanda	N	Nil
128	Saudi Arabia	N	Nil
129	Senegal	N	Nil
130	Serbia	Y	No document by this name has been issued by the Government of Serbia. However, Serbia adopted a National Security Strategy in December 2019, which has plenty of foreign policy component. A copy of the document (National Security Strategy of Serbia) is attached.
131	Seychelles	N	Mission has stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has updated its website on April 5th 2021 and has added a document titled,

			“Executive Summary of the Seychelles Foreign Policy 2021-25. The document provides guiding principles. However, a detailed strategy document is not available in public domain.
132	Sierra Leone	N	Nil
133	Singapore	N	Nil
134	Slovenia	Y	The document is called: Safe, Successful, Globally respected. The Foreign Policy of Republic of Slovenia.
135	Slovakia	N	Nil
136	Spain	Y	Spain has a four year External Action Strategy, recently released for 2021-24. The original plan is in Spanish but the translated Executive Summary is attached.
137	Solomon Islands	N	Nil
138	Somalia	N	Nil
139	South Africa	Y	Mission has shared two documents namely, “Strategic Plan 2020-2025” by Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and "The Diplomacy of Ubuntu"- White Paper on South Africa’s Foreign Policy.
140	South Sudan	N	Nil
141	Sri Lanka	N	Nil

142	Sudan	N	Nil
143	St. Kitts & Nevis	N	Nil
144	Sweden	N	Nil
145	Switzerland	Y	<p>Mission shared 8 documents containing:</p> <p>Foreign Policy Strategy 2020-23 of the Foreign Ministry;</p> <p>Foreign policy vision for Switzerland till 2028;</p> <p>Strategy for Communication abroad 2021-24;</p> <p>Mena strategy 2020-2024</p> <p>China strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Switzerland's International cooperation strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Sub-Saharan Africa strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021-24</p>
146	Syria	N	Nil
147	Tajikistan	N	Nil
148	Tanzania	N	<p>The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania does have a Foreign Policy Document - the "New Foreign Policy of 2001". However, this document is not available in the public domain except a gist as given in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website at the link <a href="https://www.foreign.go.tz/index.php/about/category/foreign-">https://www.foreign.go.tz/index.php/about/category/foreign-</a></p>



			policy.
149	Thailand	Y	<p>Thailand has a 20-YEAR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MASTERPLAN for the period 2018-2037. A synoptic version of the master-plan, in English language, is available on Thai MoFA's website at the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://image.mfa.go.th/mfa/0/mkKfL2iULZ/%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3/mfa-s-strategy.pdf">https://image.mfa.go.th/mfa/0/mkKfL2iULZ/%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3/mfa-s-strategy.pdf</a>.</p>
150	The Gambia	N	Nil
151	The Holy See	N	Nil
152	Togo	N	Nil
153	Trinidad & Tobago	N	Nil
154	Tunisia	N	The mission has shared a 1.5-page document titled "Outline of Tunisian Diplomacy". This is an outline document
155	Turkey	Y	Mission has shared two documents in Turkish language namely, "2019-2023 Strategic Plan" for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs & "Turkey's Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy - A Synopsis". The "2019-23 Strategic Plan" document (available only in Turkish) looks like a Grand Strategy document.
156	Turkmenistan	N	While President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had outlined the "Concept of foreign policy of Turkmenistan for 2017-

			2023” in February 2017, it appears there is no "Grand Foreign Policy Document / Strategy" that the country has devised / developed
157	UAE	N	Nil
158	Uganda	N	Nil
159	Ukraine	N	Ukraine does not have any Grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy as sought in the query. However, a broad based Foreign Policy “Mission and Strategy” is published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, which outlines key functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, as well as the goals and strategic priorities of the Foreign Office. The link to the same is placed below for kind information: <a href="https://mfa.gov.ua/en/misiya-ta-strategiya">https://mfa.gov.ua/en/misiya-ta-strategiya</a>
160	Uruguay	N	Uruguay does not have any Grand Foreign Policy Document/Strategy.  The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry has, however, published a Five-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2025) for the country.
161	United Kingdom	Y	UK has an document titled, Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. It is presented to the President by the Prime Minister and has been formulated by the PM’s office.
162	USA	Y	Mission informed that the US, however, publishes a "National Security Strategy Report", a comprehensive statement articulating

			<p>the worldwide interests, goals, and objectives of the United States that are important to its national security.</p> <p>Under the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Department Reorganization Act of 1986, the US President is required to submit a report on the national security strategy of the United States to Congress each year. In recent years, however, the reports have been made late or not made at all.</p>
163	Uzbekistan	N	Uzbekistan has a foreign policy document that is an overview/Mission/Vision statement. This cannot be called as a Grand strategy document
164	Venezuela	N	Nil
165	Vietnam	N	<p>Vietnam does not have any long term foreign policy document. However, the Vietnamese foreign policy is guided by the Party Resolution adopted every five years at the National Party Congress. The recently held 13th Party Congress' Resolution for the term 2021-2026 has the following broad foreign policy guidelines:</p> <p>“Implementation of the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation and development, diversification and multilateralization; proactively integrating into the world in a comprehensive, extensive and effective manner; maintain a peaceful and stable environment; constantly improve Vietnam's international status and reputation”.</p>

166	Zambia	N	Nil
167	Zimbabwe	N	Nil

**Table B - List of Countries that produce strategy documents**

<b>S.no</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Issuing Authority</b>
1.	Australia	Foreign Policy White Paper 2017	Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
2.	Austria	Austrian Security Strategy	Office of Head of Government(Chancellor )
2.	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan in the International Arena	Administrative Department of the President
3.	Belgium	Comprehensive Approach - Strategy Note	Council of Ministers
4.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	The foreign policy strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 – 2023	Office of Head of State
5.	Costa Rica	Institutional Strategic Plan 2021-2025	Ministry of External Affairs
6.	Czech Republic	Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7.	Ireland	Statement of Strategy	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (Such statements are released by various ministries)
8.	Ecuador	Agenda De Politica Exterior	Ministry for External Relations
9.	European Union	Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger	European External

		Europe	Action Service
10.	Estonia	Estonian Foreign Policy Strategy 2030	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11.	Finland	Finnish Foreign and Security Policy	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
12.	Malawi	Malawi Foreign Policy: A Catalyst for Sustainable Development	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Foreword by President)
13.	New Zealand	Strategic Intentions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14.	Nigeria	National Security Strategy	Office of the President
15.	Poland	The Polish Foreign Policy Strategy 2017-2021	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
16.	Peru	Multi-annual Strategic Plan for Foreign Affairs of Peru for 2015-2021	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17.	Russia	Foreign Policy Concept	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Serbia	Strategy of National Security of Republic of Serbia	National Assembly
18.	Slovenia	Safe, Successful, globally respected. The Foreign Policy of Republic of Slovenia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
19.	Spain	External Action Strategy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

20.	South Africa	Strategic Plan 2020-25	Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Made separately by various Ministries)
21.	Switzerland	Foreign Policy Strategy 2020-23	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22.	Thailand	20-year foreign affairs masterplan (2018-2037)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23.	Turkey	2019-23 Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24.	United Kingdom	Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy	Prime Minister's office.
25.	United States of America	National Security Strategy Report	Office of the President