

**Recognition of Hindi as official language of UN**

†1450. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of attempts made in United Nations General Assembly towards recognition of Hindi as an official language at United Nations;
- (b) the action plan chalked out by Government towards recognition of Hindi as an official language of United Nations and to propagate it throughout the world; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated by Government for propagation and publicity of Hindi language worldwide and the quantum of funds spent for this purpose during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government has been making sustained efforts for the acceptance of Hindi as an official language of the United Nations (UN) and its propagation worldwide. According to the UN's procedure, getting Hindi accepted as an official language of the UN involves adoption of a Resolution by the UN General Assembly with at least two-thirds of its membership. Besides, the additional expenditure will have to be borne by all UN Member States.

Government of India signed a MoU with the UN Secretariat in March, 2018 for an initial period of 2 years for increasing the volume and frequency of Hindi content produced by the UN. In July, 2018, UN launched Hindi versions of its social media content on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Hindi website of UN News was initiated on the occasion of World Hindi Day in January 2019. The UN News audio bulletins in Hindi (UN Radio) are being released on a weekly basis.

In addition, Indian leaders have delivered statements at the UN in Hindi, including Prime Minister's statement at the 69th UN General Assembly in September, 2014 and at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September, 2015. A World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius since February, 2008 to promote Hindi as an international language. Efforts to propagate Hindi worldwide are also being made by our Diplomatic Missions abroad in coordination with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) through activities such as establishment of Chairs of Hindi language in universities abroad, scholarship and fellowships to foreign students to study Hindi, internationally distributed publications such as "Gagananchal", and holding of international conferences pertaining to Hindi.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Over the last five years, Government has allocated and spent ₹ 43.48 crores for propagation and publicity of Hindi language worldwide through our Diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad. The details of the funds spent over the last five years were: ₹ 2.88 cr. (2014-15); ₹ 10.88 cr. (2015-16); ₹ 5.01 cr. (2016-17); ₹ 3.54 cr. (2017-18) and ₹ 21.17 cr. (2018-19).

#### **Online victims of passport related fraud**

†1451. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of persons have become victims of online fraud in the name of making passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and details of such victims and the total amount involved in the said fraud, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) It has been brought to the attention of the Ministry about the existence of some websites which are fraudulently claiming to make passports. Steps have been taken by the Ministry to spread awareness about such fraudulent websites and issue advisories through the social media. Citizens have been advised to use the official passport portal (*www.passportindia.gov.in*) of the Ministry in order to avail passport related services.

(c) Data on the number and details of applicants who have used these fraudulent websites to apply for a passport and the total amount involved is not possible to definitively quantify.

#### **Meeting with Sri Lanka over arrest of fishermen**

1452. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held any high level meeting with Sri Lanka to resolve the issue of regular arrest of fishermen due to violation of maritime border;

(b) if so, the details of the meetings held during 2018 and 2019 and the outcome thereof;

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