

(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;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.