

**Remittance by NRIs in dollar**

649. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has urged the NRIs to send money for their kith and kins in dollar; and

(b) if so, the details of total dollars sent by NRIs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Government encourages investment by Non-resident Indians (NRIs)/Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)/Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) in various sectors. Investment made by NRIs, PIOs and OCIs under Schedule 4 of FEMA (Transfer or Issue of Security by Persons Resident Outside India) Regulations on non-repatriation basis, is deemed to be domestic investment at par with the investment made by resident Indians.

(b) As per data obtained from RBI, the amount of remittances, year-wise, received by India from NRIs during the last three years, is as under:

Year	Remittance to India (US \$ Million)
2015-16	65592.1
2016-17	61296.0
2017-18 (P)	69129.1
2018-19*	58311.8

\*April-Dec. 2018-19.

P: Provisional.

**Vacant posts at diplomat level**

650. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacant posts at diplomat level in the Ministry and the reasons therefor;

(b) by when Government would be able to achieve the target of IFS Expansion Plan;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard along with the achievements made, so far; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to attract the brightest and best talent to foreign services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Vacancies in Indian Missions/Posts abroad, under the various MEA cadres, are regularly determined and officers appointed thereto from time to time. Generally, gaps between the departure of the incumbents and arrival of their successors are kept to the minimum. However, as the posting chains often involve several officers, on some occasions, the Missions/Posts abroad do have to face some short-term vacancies. It is not possible to determine the exact number of vacancies on any particular day, since officers are demitting charge in some of our 192 Missions/Posts abroad and others are assuming charge in some. As on 01.06.2019, there are around 7 such vacancies where officers are still to be posted. Additionally, when new posts are created, it takes time to fill them up as indent needs to be placed with UPSC, which then recruits officers through a three-step examination process. Once officers are recruited, they go through a probation period before confirmation in service.

(b) and (c) In recent years, India's diplomatic engagement both in bilateral and multilateral frameworks has grown significantly. To address the growing demands, posts at various levels were created through the MEA Expansion Plan, including 187 posts of IFS and 122 posts at the staff level. More recently, the Union Cabinet, on 21 March, 2018, has approved opening of 18 new Missions in Africa in a phased manner from 2018 to 2021, which also entails creation of posts. Accordingly, the opening of Missions is under implementation in a phased manner and Missions have already been opened in 5 countries.

(d) Recruitment to the Indian Foreign Service is through the common Civil Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. The Indian Foreign Service attracts some of the best talent from diverse fields. On its part, the Ministry also endeavours to introduce and acquaint people within the country, including the student community, with India's foreign policy objectives, thereby fostering greater awareness on foreign policy issues as well as interest in joining the Indian Foreign Service.

#### **European Union Parliament report on minority groups in Pakistan**

651. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has examined the report on minority groups in Pakistan recently released by European Union Parliament alleging State role in institutionalised discrimination and persecution of minorities;