

petitions, higher rate of rejection among IT service-focused companies and cost implications of higher scrutiny and additional Requests for Evidence.

International/domestic engagements of PM

522. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total expenditure incurred on international engagements of the Prime Minister over the last three years; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on domestic engagements during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Expenditure incurred on international engagements of Prime Minister over the last three years

| Year | Chartered flights | Hotline |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2016-17 | 76,27,68,000 | 2,24,75,451 |
| 2017-18 | 99,32,31,000 | 58,06,630 |
| 2018-19 | 79,91,84,298 | Nil |
| 2019-20 | Bill not received | Nil |

(b) As per Government of India policy on use of IAF aircraft/helicopters by VVIPs/VIPs, Hon'ble Prime Minister is entitled for free airlift in IAF aircrafts/helicopters on official tours.

Know India Programme

523. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youths who took part in 54th Know India Programme (KIP);

(b) the objective of organizing such programme alongwith criteria fixed by Government for selection of nomination;

(c) the funds allocated and spend for this programme;

(d) the number of such events organized by Government since 2004 and achievement made so far;

(e) whether the number of participants under the above programme has come down over the last few years;

(f) if so, the details and the reasons therefore during the last three years; and

(g) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to improve the programme for Indians abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) 40 Participants.

(b) The Know India Programme (KIP) is an important initiative of the Government of India which aims to engage and make the students and young professionals of Indian diaspora in the age group of 18-30 years feel a sense of connect with their motherland and to be motivated and inspired by the transformations taking place in India. The programme also aims to give them an exposure to India's diverse forms of art, heritage, and culture as well as to India's progress in various fields such as Industry, Education, Science and Technology, Information and Communication Technology etc.

The selection of the participants is based on the following eligibility criteria:-

- (i) **Age:** 18-30 years.
- (ii) **Previous Participation:** The applicant should not have earlier visited India through any of the Government funded Schemes.
- (iii) **Educational Qualification:** Minimum graduation from a recognized University/ Institute or enrolled for graduation.
- (iv) **Language:** The applicants should be able to speak in English.

(c) An amount of ₹ 6.00 crore was allocated under Know India Programme for the current FY 2019-20 and an amount of ₹ 1.10 crore has been expended so far.

(d) Since 2004, the GoI has conducted 56 editions of KIP with the participation of 1941 participants and participants of 57th edition are presently in India. 58th and 59th editions of KIP will be conducted in the months of December, 2019 and January, 2020 within this FY.