

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

HINDI AS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE UNITED NATIONS

541. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

the steps taken by Government to make Hindi as one of the Official Languages in the United Nations?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

According to the United Nation's (UN) 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.

The Government has been making sustained efforts for the recognition of Hindi as an official language of the UN and to popularize Hindi throughout the UN system. In 2018, a Voluntary Financial Contribution Agreement was signed between the UN and the Government of India to promote Hindi within the UN system for a two-year term. This was the first Memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by the UN with any country. This was extended by another 5 years in 2019 and is currently in force till March 2025. Pursuant to this Agreement, the UN has launched Hindi Social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as a Hindi website of UN News. In addition, the UN broadcasts its programmes on the UN Radio website in Hindi, issues a weekly Hindi news bulletin on Sound Cloud, publishes a UN blog in Hindi and has provided a Hindi extension of UN News mobile app for both Android and iOS.

On several occasions, Indian leaders have delivered statements in Hindi at the UN, including Prime Minister's address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Sessions in 2014, 2019, 2020 and 2021, and the then External Affairs Minister's address at the UNGA sessions in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
