

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-709**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

**FUNDS ALLOTTED TO STATES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES OF THE MINISTRY**

709. Dr. ANIL AGRAWAL  
SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA  
SHRI JAGGESH  
SHRI BRIJ LAL  
Dr. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the funds allotted to the States of Maharashtra, Kerala and Assam under various schemes of the Ministry of External Affairs during the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 is higher as compared to recent past;

(b) if so, the allotment of funds thereof annually from 2019-24;

(c) whether Government of India approve any special projects of the Ministry of External Affairs under overseas Indian affairs for the States of Maharashtra, Kerala and Assam from 2019-24; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for 2019-24, annually?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI)

(a to d) The funds are provided under Ministry's 'State Facilitation and Knowledge Support' (SF&KS) Scheme to Ministry's Branch Secretariats, Regional Passport Offices and Passport Offices on specific request to carry out State outreach activities in various States/UTs across the country.

The funds under 'State Facilitation and Knowledge Support' (SF&KS) were allotted as under:

<b>Branch Secretariats/Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funds Allocated (INR)</b>
Branch Secretariat, Guwahati	2020-21	5,00,000/-
Regional Passport Office, Mumbai	2021-22	3,00,000/-
Regional Passport Office, Pune	2021-22	2,00,000/-
Branch Secretariat, Guwahati	2023-24	13,71,443/-
Regional Passport Office, Trivandrum	2023-24	25,00,000/-

The SF&KS Scheme has been set up with the objective to enhance Ministry's outreach through the network of Regional Passport Offices, Passport Offices and MEA Branch Secretariats, by conducting events/seminars in collaboration with the state governments, local academic institutions, think-tanks and business promotion organisations. The Scheme is to be utilised for promotion of trade, tourism and investment, facilitating diplomatic outreach, establishing sister city/state engagements with foreign counterparts and dialogues on economic diplomacy with focus on interests of State/UT.

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