

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2092
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

2092. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Know India Programme;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the number of participants under the above programme has come down from 151 in 2014-15 to just 70 in 2015-16, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what are the reasons for not even utilizing the budget allotted to this programme since 2012-13; and
- (d) how Ministry is planning to improve the programme for Indians abroad?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) The Know India Programme (KIP) enables the Government to engage with young members of the Indian Diaspora and to help them rediscover their roots in India. Under KIP the Ministry organises a 25 day long visit to India by young Indian-origin persons to give them an exposure to various aspects of contemporary India, and India's diverse forms of art, heritage, and culture. Under the State leg of KIP, the participants visit one State in order to familiarise themselves with specific States in India.
- (b) During 2015-16, two Know India Programmes were organized with participation of 70 Overseas Indians in 33rd KIP (29th June, 2015 to 19th July, 2015) and 34th KIP (17th August, 2015 to 06th September, 2015). Further editions could not be organized in 2015-16 since the contract with the previous event manager of KIP expired in September 2015. A decision was also taken to review the Know India Programme.
- (c) The fund allocation under KIP head is made taking into account expenditure on the State leg of the Programme in case the concerned State does not agree to meet the expenditure. For the programmes organized since 2012-13, the State Governments of Partner States have incurred entire expenditure for the duration of the visit of the participants to those states. Therefore the entire budget which was allocated for KIP was not utilized since 2012-13.
- (d) The Ministry undertook a review of KIP recently, following which the duration of KIP has been increased from 21 to 25 days. Recognizing that Indian Diaspora has an emotional connect with their place of origin in India, the Ministry has requested State Governments which have a large number of Indian Diaspora abroad to become partners in the KIP Programmes. The State leg of the programme has also been increased from 7 to 10 days to give KIP participants exposure to our regional diversity and to specific states.
