

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:

Branch Secretariats/Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices	Financial Year	Funds Allocated (INR)
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.
