GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3822
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018

TRANSLATION OF INDIAN LITERATURE

†3822. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a)   whether efforts have been made by the Government to promote/encourage the translation of Indian literature into foreign languages;
(b)   if so, the details thereof; and
(c)   the details of the funds allocated and utilised for promotion of Indian literature abroad during the last three years?

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE &
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

(a)&(b):Yes, Madam. Sahitya Akademi (SA), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture has been translating Indian literary masterpieces into foreign languages. Ministry of Culture's flagship project, Indian Literature Abroad (ILA) has been allotted to Sahitya Akademi. Prior to ILA and over the years, the Akademi promoted several Indian classics and popular Indian works into foreign languages.

Under the scheme to promote Indian Literature in foreign languages, Sahitya Akademi has published:

S.No.	Title	Language translated into and publisher
1.	Herbert by Nabarun Bhattacharya	German (Publisher – Draupadi Verlag)
2.	Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh	Swedish (Publisher – Aranan Publishing House)
3.	Kaatil Oru Maan by Ambai	French (Publisher - Zulma)

SA has prepared the following translations into Spanish:

S.No.	Title
1.	Bhoomi by Allam Rajaiah from Telugu
2.	Joothan by Valmiki from Hindi
3.	Hajar Churashir Ma by Mahasweta Devi from Bengali
4.	I take this Woman by Rajinder Singh Bedi from Urdu / English
5.	Short Stories of Suresh Joshi from Gujarati / English
6.	Vaadivaasal by C.S. Chellappa from Tamil
7.	Suraj Mukhir Swapna by Syed Abdul Malik
8.	18th Parallel by Ashokamitran from Tamil
9.	75 Poems of Pash
10.	The Eye of God
11.	Spider in the Web by D.R. Bendre from Kannada

Apart from the above, the SA has published the following books under Cultural Exchange Programme:

S.No.	Title	Language of publication
1.	Bhartala Da Natya Shastra by Kapila Vatsayan	Russian
2.	Indian Short Stories by E.V. Ramakrishnan	Russian
3.	Kabita	Slovenian
4.	The Dual of the Heart	English

In 1955, the Akademi recommended to UNESCO 29 Indian classics from 15 Indian languages and 25 books were published in English and French.

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with UNESCO, translated the Sacred Writings of the Sikhs (by Khushwant Singh and G.S. Fraser) and was published by George Allen and Unwin in 1960.

Over the years, the Akademi promoted several Indian classics and popular Indian works into foreign languages such as The Ayodhya Canto of the Ramayana as told by Kamban from Tamil into English, Chemmeen from Malayalam into English and several Eastern European languages, Kavitavali by Tulsidas into English, Godaan by Premchand into English, Garambica Bapu by S.N. Pendse into English, Pather Panchali by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay into French, to name a few.[1]

(c):   Separate funds are not allotted to Sahitya Akademi for promotion of Indian literature abroad during the last three years. Sahitya Akademi has been publishing these translations and participating in a number of International Book Fairs such as London Book Fair, Sharjah Book Fair, Frankfurt Book Fair etc out of general fund allotted to it.

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