

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4648

ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

RECRUITMENT OF INTERPRETER IN MEA

4648 SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA

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

(a) the current status of interpreter recruitment in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), indicating the number of vacancies and recent appointment made;

(b) whether the Government has any plans to recruit additional interpreters to address the growing demand for multilingual communication in diplomatic and international engagements;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are any challenges in attracting qualified interpreters, if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve recruitment efficiency; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the training and capacity-building of interpreters in the Ministry to meet global diplomatic standards?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) The Ministry has interpreters coming from different streams who contribute to its diplomatic engagements and interactions. The Interpreters Cadre has ten interpreters of the following languages:

(I) Chinese (II) Russian (III) French (IV) Spanish (V) Arabic (VI) German and (VII) Persian. IFS Officers with a special language aptitude are also regularly selected for interpreter training and sent on specialized courses to acquire requisite skills. There are 22 such IFS officers who are certified as interpreters in the following languages:

(I) Chinese (II) Spanish (III) Japanese (IV) Russian (V) French (VI) Arabic and (VII) German. In addition, the Ministry employs three interpretation consultants.

The deployment of interpreters in the Ministry or Embassies abroad is done on the basis of functional requirements. Many Embassies also employ local staff with interpreter level skills for use in non-sensitive domains.

The Ministry's requirement for interpreters is continuously reviewed. Steps towards intake are taken accordingly.
