

V. THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE

54. INTERPRETATION SERVICE

54.1 Functions: The main function of the Simultaneous Interpretation Service is to provide simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha in Hindi and English from the floor language so that Hon'ble Chairman, Ministers and Members not knowing the floor language can follow the proceedings of the House. Each seat of the House has been provided with an earphone and a channel selector. A number of such earphones have also been provided in the Lok Sabha Members' Gallery, Special Box for Distinguished Visitors, Press Gallery and Official Gallery in order to make the interpretation facility available there too. Similar arrangement exists in most of the Committee rooms in Parliament House, Parliament House Annexe & PHA Extension Building.

Simultaneous interpretation of speeches made in Hindi and English is available throughout the sittings of the House and its Committees. Besides, arrangements at present exist for simultaneous interpretation in Hindi and English of speeches made in other Indian languages, namely, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

A Member desirous of speaking in any of the aforesaid Indian languages is required to give at least an hour's notice to this effect. The notice is received by the Table Office and is then passed on to the Joint Secretary (Interpretation)/Director (Interpretation) who makes the necessary arrangement thereafter. Before the beginning of each Session, Hon'ble Members are informed of this procedure as also of the working of the system, use of equipment etc. through a Bulletin-Part II issued by the Secretariat.

The provision of simultaneous interpretation facility has greatly encouraged Hon'ble Members and Ministers to speak in Hindi and their respective mother tongues.

54.2 Strength of the Service

Sanctioned Posts	Existing Posts	Vacant Posts
36	24	12
1 Director went on Deputation in June, 2018 1 Director Retired on 31 st October, 2018 1 Parliamentary Interpreter (Assamese) joined on 27 th December, 2018 1 Urdu Consultant's contract ended on 31 st December, 2018		

The existing strength of officers of the Service is as follows:

Joint Secretary (Interpretation)	1
Director (Interpretation)	3
Malayalam 1	
Kannada 1 (On Deputation)	
Hindi/English 1	
Additional Director (Interpretation)	14
Hindi/English 10	
Bengali 1	
Gujarati 1	
Tamil 1	

Punjabi	1	
Sr. Parliamentary Interpreter Hindi/English	4	5
Telugu	1	
Parliamentary Interpreters Assamese	1	1
Total		24

The existing vacancies of Interpreters are as follows:

Hindi/English	Parliamentary Interpreter	9
Marathi	Parliamentary Interpreter	1
Odia	Parliamentary Interpreter	1
Urdu	Parliamentary Interpreter	1

54.3 Interpretation Work: During the period under review (2018), the Service covered the proceedings of 3 Sessions of Rajya Sabha from 245th to 247th Session. The total number of sittings was 65.

Work relating to speeches in various regional languages inter-alia involves preparation of the English/Hindi version of the speech for inclusion in the day's proceedings of the House. Simultaneous interpretation facility was also provided in the meetings of all Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees of the Rajya Sabha and also other House Committees. The total number of meetings covered during the year was 174. Various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India also requisitioned the services of the officers of the Simultaneous Interpretation Service for their conferences & Consultative Committee meetings.

54.3.1 Interpretation work in the House

Sl. No.	2018	Session	No. of Sittings	Number of Hours-Minutes	Total Number of Hours
1.	Jan.-March	245	30	45 hrs 17 mnts.	139 hrs. 12 mnts.
	April-June				
2.	July-September	246	17	66 hrs. 55 mnts.	
3.	October, 2018 - January, 2019	247	18	27 hrs.	

54.3.2 Interpretation work in Committee Meetings (Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees, House Committees)

Sl. No.	2018	No. of Committee Meetings	Total Number of Committee Meetings	Total Number of Hours
1.	Jan.-March	55	174	261 hrs. 14 mnts.
2.	April-June	37		
3.	July-Sept.	38		
4.	Oct.-Dec.	44		

54.3.3 Interpretation work of Regional Languages in the House/Committees

Sl. No.	Language	No. of speeches made during session	Duration of Speeches	Time taken for translation
1.	Assamese	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Bengali	1	5 mnts.	3 hours

3.	Gujarati	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Kannada	1 (LS)	2 mnts.	4 hours
5.	Malayalam	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Marathi	1 (LS)	3 mnts.	4 hours
7.	Odia	1 (LS)	4 mnts.	5 hours
8.	Punjabi	NIL	NIL	NIL
9.	Tamil	3	17 mnts.	5 hours
10.	Telugu	7	45 mnts.	30 hours
11.	Urdu	1	5 mnts.	NIL

54.4 Translation work: The Service is called upon to render translation into English/Hindi of documents such as speeches, Press reports, letters, petitions etc. received from the office of the Hon'ble Chairman/Deputy Chairman/ Committee Sections of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in various regional languages. The details of the documents translated from various regional languages into English, during the period under review are as follows:

Sl. No.	Language	No. of documents	Time taken for translation	Language translated into
1.	Assamese	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Bengali	2	2 hours	English
3.	Gujarati	1	3 hours	English
4.	Kannada	2	3 hours	English
5.	Malayalam	8	22 hours 30 mnts.	English
6.	Marathi	2	5 hours	English
7.	Odia	3	6 hours	English
8.	Punjabi	2	1 hour	English
9.	Tamil	5	1 day 6 hours	English
10.	Telugu	11	12 days 12 hours 30 mnts.	English
11.	Urdu	NIL	NIL	NIL

54.5 Skill and efficiency: With a view to keeping the Interpreters in form and further honing their skill and efficiency, regular practice of simultaneous interpretation has been conducted over the years.

54.6 Goals and Objectives: The Service has fulfilled its objective of providing simultaneous interpretation facilities in Rajya Sabha, Department-related Standing Committees and Consultative Committees with the best possible quality. All the targets were achieved as per the Action Plan for the year under report. The Service is equipped with the expertise of simultaneous interpretation and holds in-house practice for further excellence.

54.7 Training: The Service feels the need for comprehensive training in other faculties of interpretation, such as, sight, whisper, consecutive interpretation etc. Interpretation being a highly skilled job, there is always a need for overseas training in Universities/institutions where conference interpretation is taught as a University course at Degree and Diploma level.

The following interpreting officers attended the following training programmes:-

- 1) Sh. Rana Dharendra Pratap Yadav, Additional Director (I) attended Management Development Programme at Mussorie, organized by Training Unit, R.S. Sectt.
- 2) Dr. Sumanta Kumar Bhowmick, Additional Director (I) and Shri Manoj Kumar Hasija, Additional Director (I) both attended Public Administration International at Russel Square, London, organized by Training Unit, R.S. Sectt.

54.8 Achievements:

1. A team of interpreting officers provided simultaneous interpretation in the meeting of Ministry of Culture convened for Celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 2nd May, 2018.
2. A team of Interpreting officers provided simultaneous interpretation at the prestigious Governors' Conference in Rashtrapati Bhavan held on 5th June, 2018 & brought laurels to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
3. Two officers of SIS provided simultaneous interpretation in the Assumption Ceremony of Vice chair of World Customs Organization for the Asia-Pacific Region on 16th July, 2018. This Event was organized by Ministry of finance, customs Department.
4. The bi-annual Orientation Program for the Honorable Members of Rajya Sabha was successfully covered by the SIS from 4th to 5th August, 2018.

54.9 New Initiatives:

It was the great vision and cherished dream of our Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji to fulfill the commitment made under Article 120 of the Indian Constitution with regard to providing simultaneous interpretation in all the 22 languages of the VIII Schedule to the constitution of India. To uphold the spirit of Article 120 as also to encourage wide usage of one's own mother tongue and for the development & promotion of Indian languages in Rajya Sabha, he lost no time in giving directions to the Secretariat to make arrangements for the simultaneous interpretation facility for all those languages for which facility was not yet in place.

Simultaneous Interpretation Service accepted the gauntlet and under the able and deft stewardship of Secretary-General the SIS rose to the occasion to give shape to the dream of our Hon'ble Chairman. Thus, an ambitious scheme for the empanelment of Consultant Interpreters saw the light of the day.

It is pertinent to mention here that this Scheme was launched in PPP mode and to accomplish this Herculean task SIS undertook the massive exercise of advertising on the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha TVs, on their Websites, writing letters to the VCs of both Central and State Universities of the concerned States and contacting and engaging State Resident Commissioners of Kashmir, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Goa States and also circulating it in all the Delhi based units of PSUs and Ministries etc., reaching people through personal contacts and giving it wide publicity in both the Secretariats by issuing circulars for empanelling Consultant Interpreters initially for only five Indian languages namely, Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali and Sindhi in the 1st Phase and subsequently adding two more languages namely Kannada and Marathi in the IInd phase of Empanelment.

Simultaneous Interpretation Service has accepted this great responsibility of receiving and scrutinizing the applications, calling candidates, conducting Oration and SITs, imparting training to the shortlisted candidates, declaring results and organizing Practice Sessions for the empanelled Consultants and preparing them for undertaking Interpretation Assignments in the House and Committee meetings.

Finally, formulating and executing the Scheme of Empanelment i.e. recruiting/empanelling and training interpreters in Indian languages in Parliament is a complex process involving various tiers of screening and examinations but it was completed in a short span of about four months which is an achievement for the Simultaneous Interpretation Service.

Under this New Initiative, very soon SIS is going to start the 3rd Phase of Empanelment of Consultants for Indian languages which comprise all the above-mentioned steps.

Last but not least, this statement on New Initiative would be incomplete without mentioning the fact that if our Hon'ble Chairman has been the visionary of this great task then our Secretary-General has been the pioneer and guiding force and our Secretary, the real torch bearer throughout this long and arduous journey.