

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876

ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

Use of regional languages in Courts

1876. Shri Brijlal

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

- a) the number of High Courts in the country which are using regional languages in their functioning;
- b) whether Government has received any request/representation from various High Courts across the country regarding the use of regional languages in their functioning and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and
- c) whether Government has prepared a common legal glossary to be used in courts with an objective of using regional languages in legal system and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b) Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

The use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tami, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

(c) Central Government has not prepared a common legal glossary to be used in courts with an objective of using regional languages in legal system.
