GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 354
ANSWERED ON - 06/12/2023

TECHNOLOGY AND BHARATIYA BHASHA UTSAV

354. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the aims and vision of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav Summit 2023 details thereof;

(b)   the details as to how the New Education Policy aims to integrate technology in the new education system to promote and preserve rich linguistic heritage of the country; and

(c)   the steps taken by Government to leverage technology for Bharatiya languages and promote search engine localization?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): The National Education Policy, 2020 lays a lot of stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. In order to achieve this objective the Government is integrating multilingualism at school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in Indian languages. In addition to this, educational institution are being encouraged to organize activities to celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of the country from time to time. The Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav is one such activity being organized by the Government. The programme is focused on celebrating diversity and developing harmony and national integrity through Indian languages. As part of this utsav, 75 days of celebrations are being organized in various schools, colleges and other institutions across the country involving students, teachers and other staff. List of activities includes exhibitions, bhasha stalls, technology stalls, language quiz, speech, debates, extempore in different languages, poetry recitation and essay writing competition in various languages, creative performances depicting lok parampara and folk art forms, street plays and dramas, etc. This utsav would be culminating on 11th December 2023 which is the birthday of great poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharathi.

(b) & (c):   National Education Policy 2020 is a document available in the public domain. It places strong emphasis on the fusion of technology with education, particularly in the context of preserving and promoting the nation's diverse linguistic heritage/diversity. For leveraging technology for Bharatiya Bhashas, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is running a Bhasha Sangam programme as also Machine Translation cell. The Bhasha Sangam program aims to enhance language learning by encouraging learners to grasp in 22 languages. This endeavour is seen as a significant step in fostering language understanding and promoting a deeper appreciation of diverse culture through educational system. To facilitate the dissemination of education in a child's native language, NCERT has established a Translation Cell which is translating various books into the scheduled languages. All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have leveraged Anuvadini App to translate books for Under Graduate and Post Graduate Technical books in multiple Indian languages. The translated books are available on eKUMBH portal. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been conducted in 13 languages. Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) is now conducted in 13 languages. Technical education is being imparted in certain (AICTE) approved institutions in 8 regional languages. Course material including text books and teaching resource are available on Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) portal in 33 Indian Languages. The use of machine assisted translation in multiple languages is viewed as a strategic approach to advance holistic child development and contribute to a better future through widespread access to education.

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