

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.605

ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

ACTION PLAN TO PROVIDE JUSTICE IN PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE

605. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, to establish a transparent judicial system, Government has deliberated upon any action plan to provide justice to the people in their language;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the entrance examination for students to some of the most prestigious law institutes in the country is conducted only in English language; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would consider conducting student entrance tests of all such legal educational institutions in official language Hindi along with all regional mother tongues of the country mandatory and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As regards language of proceedings in the High Courts, 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 provides 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.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. As regards, use of Hindi or regional language in lower courts, it is decided by the High Court and State Government concerned in consultation with each other.

In order to promote regional languages in judicial procedure, Supreme Court has developed Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS) which is a machine assisted translation tool trained by Artificial Intelligence. SUVAS has been developed with technical support from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This tool is specially designed for judicial domain and currently has the capacity of translating English Judicial Documents, orders or Judgments into eleven vernacular languages namely: Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malyalam, Bengali, Odia, Assamese and vice-versa.

(c) & (d) The subject matter is presently sub-judice before the High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (C) No. 3132/2023 titled Sudhanshu Pathak versus Consortium of National Law Universities.
