

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 517
ANSWERED ON - 07/02/2024

NEW EDUCATION POLICY

517. SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

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

(b) the details of 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) & (b): 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 India 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 e-KUMBH 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. In order to further facilitate education through Indian languages, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also asked its affiliated schools to consider using Indian languages, as enumerated in the Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution, as the medium of instruction from Foundational stage till end of Secondary stage i.e. from pre-primary classes till class XII as an optional medium in addition to other existing options.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 scheduled Indian languages in the open source. Currently, 290 pre trained AI driven language models have been made available in Bhashini platform in 22 scheduled languages for text to text translation and 10 Indian scheduled languages and English for voice to voice translation, transcription and dictation. The Bhashini open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been list in API Setu (<http://apisetu.gov.in>). Bhashini APIs are available for anyone to integrate with any application. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) models of ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) can be used for voice search in Indian languages. Unicode support in search engines helps search in Indian languages. All 22 scheduled languages are represented in the Unicode standard, and facilitates searching in Indian languages.