

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1028**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4TH DECEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 13, 1946
(SAKA)**

INCLUSION OF LANGUAGES IN EIGHT SCHEDULE

1028 SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Sikkim, pertaining to the inclusion of Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu languages in the list of Eight Schedule of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government on the proposal of the State Government and the present status of the proposal thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (c): Requests have been received from time to time for inclusion of several languages including Bhutia, Lepcha and Limbu in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. A request has also been received from the State Government of Sikkim. However, there are no fixed criteria for consideration of any language for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. As the evolution of dialects and languages is a dynamic process, influenced by socio-cultural, economic and political developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages for inclusion

in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The earlier attempts, through the Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) Committees, to evolve such fixed criteria have been inconclusive. The Government is conscious of the sentiments and requirements for inclusion of other languages in the Eighth Schedule. Such requests have to be considered keeping in mind these sentiments, and the other relevant considerations.
