

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2210
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

Imposition of Hindi language in educational institutions under NEP

2210 Dr. John Brittas:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the concerns and ongoing agitations in Tamil Nadu against the imposition of Hindi under National Education Policy (NEP);
- (b) if so, details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that NEP promotes a three-language formula, which Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed in favour of its two-language policy;
- (d) if so, steps taken by Government has to ensure Tamil Nadu's linguistic preferences and policies are respected under the NEP: and
- (e) whether Government will assure that no coercive measures will be taken to impose Hindi on non-Hindi-speaking States and that they will have the right to choose languages in their educational institutions?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (e) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, inter-alia, at para 4.13, provides that the three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions, and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity. However, there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India. In particular, students who wish to change one or more of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6 or 7, as long as they are able to demonstrate basic proficiency in three languages (including one language of India at the literature level) by the end of secondary

school. NEP-2020 gives choice to the students to choose the language they wish to study, provided at least two of the three languages are native of India. As per NEP-2020, Para-4.12, “As research clearly shows that children pick up languages extremely quickly between the ages of 2 and 8 and that multilingualism has great cognitive benefits to young students, children will be exposed to different languages early on (but with a particular emphasis on the mother tongue), starting from the Foundational Stage onwards. All languages will be taught in an enjoyable and interactive style, with plenty of interactive conversation, and with early reading and subsequently writing in the mother tongue in the early years, and with skills developed for reading and writing in other languages in Grade 3 and beyond. Extensive use of technology will be made for teaching and learning of different languages and to popularize language learning.”

The NCF-SE 2023 also comprehensively discussed Multilingualism. As specified in chapter 2, page-216, “This NCF thus gives central importance to learning in the mother tongue in the initial stages and to Language learning across all stages, with a commitment to multilingualism.”

In Chapter 2, section 2.1 “This multilingualism promotes both socio-emotional and cognitive capacities at the individual level as well as cultural unity at the local and national levels.”

The policy also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching. In order to achieve this objective, the Government is integrating multilingualism at school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in Indian languages so that students have the choice to study in their mother tongue/local/language.
