

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2914
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

Exclusion of regional languages in CBSE policy

2914 Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the exclusion of 14 regional languages, including major South Indian languages (including Telugu), from the initial CBSE draft for Class 10 Board exams, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken to ensure equal representation of all 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in educational policies;
- (c) the details of impact on linguistic diversity and cultural identity; and
- (d) the measures to prevent such exclusions and ensure inclusivity under the National Education Policy?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) : As per the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has initiated a detailed Draft Scheme for conduct of two Board Examination, Class X from 2026. The following languages, including major South Indian Languages, i.e. Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada, are offered by the CBSE currently and will continue to be offered in the proposed scheme. The languages are:-

Hindi Course-A (002), Hindi Course-B (085), English (Communicative) (101), English (Lang & Lit) (184), Rai(131), Gurung(132), Tamang(133), Sherpa(134), French(018), Sanskrit Communicative(119), Sanskrit(122), Urdu Course-A(003), Bengali(005), Tamil(006), Marathi(009), Gujarati(010), Manipuri(011), Urdu Course-B(303), Tibetan(017), German(020), Bhoti(088), Telugu-Telangana(089), Bodo(092), Tangkhul(093), Japanese(094), Bhutia(095), Spanish(096), Kashmiri(097), Mizo(098), Bahasa Melayu(099), Thai(136), Punjabi(004), Russian (021), Nepali(024), Limboo(025), Lepcha (026), Sindhi (008), Malayalam(012), Odia (013), Assamese (014), Kannada (015), Kokborok (091), Telugu (007), Arabic(016) And Persian(023)

Education policies and National Curriculum Framework for School Education since independence have been promoting all Indian languages with the strategy of mother tongue-based multilingualism - all children begin their school education in their mother tongue / home language / regional language and move on to add two or more languages by the time they reach their middle and secondary stages of school education. Children learn their languages and English language as a language from Grade 1. Tribal and minor languages are

also learnt from Grade 1. Further, NEP 2020 states that the three language formula will continue to be implemented keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions and the Union and the need to promote multilingualism and national unity. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of states, regions and the students.

Learning of many languages promotes linguistic harmony, cultural understanding, national integration, also learners develop attitudes and values in the broader sense. Learning many languages also develops multi competence in the person. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 record in their language section and stress the need for creating multilinguals of our learners through the processes of schooling.

Following are the initiatives of the Government of India through policies, programmes, schemes and activities for the promotion of Indian languages in school education:-

(i). Primers in all Indian languages: Primer is the first book for learners and for anyone in the language to learn and get familiarised with the language through visual, text form and to notice and use language in contexts. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have jointly developed Primers in 121 languages / mother tongues listed in the Census of India 2011. The developed Primers are available on NCERT Website. <https://ncert.nic.in/primers.php>

(ii). Bhasha Sangam under Ek Bharath and Shrestha Bharat: Government of India initiated this nationwide programme to promote all Indian language under which school children learn 100 sentences in the 22 scheduled languages with audio and video support. The programme has been under implementation for the last seven years and schools across the country are participating and learning the Indian languages. The programmes, both textual and audio-video materials are available on DIKSHA portal at <https://ncert.nic.in/bs-2021.php>

(iii). Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav: Government of Indian has directed all educational institutions and schools to celebrate Great Tamil poet, Subramania Bharati's birthday as Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav in December every year with lots of activities. Schools and other educational institutions are celebrating Indian languages through various cultural, ethnic and social and academic activities. December 11 is the final day of the Utsav in which schools and other institutions showcase their Indian languages activities in their schools.

(iv). Translation of materials (textbooks) and resources for learners and teachers in Indian languages: As a follow up to the NEP 2020, National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022 and NCF-SE 2023, the materials, including teaching-learning materials (textbooks) and resources for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) textbooks for learners, teachers and parents have been translated and made available in the 23 languages (22 Scheduled Indian languages and English).

(v). Translation of NCERT Textbooks into 22 Scheduled Indian languages: Content subject textbooks developed as a follow up to the NEP 2020 and NCF-FS and NCF-SE 2023 are being translated into the 22 Scheduled Languages. The textbooks which have been developed, for classes I, II and VI in content subjects are available for learners. The textbooks can be accessed at <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?aknjm1=0-13>
