

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3783
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Use of vernacular languages in the judiciary

3783 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) the status of the ongoing efforts by the AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee in translating Supreme Court judgments into vernacular languages, including the number of judgments translated so far;
- (b) the measures taken to standardize and verify the accuracy of these translations across High Courts, ensuring consistency in legal terminology; and
- (c) the roadmap of the Ministry for expanding the use of regional languages in High Court proceedings, particularly in States where such requests have been previously denied?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) The Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgements in 18 vernacular languages. The Chief Justice of India has constituted the Artificial Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to monitor the translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) into vernacular languages by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. A

similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by a Judge of the respective High Courts.

The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the Supreme Court has been convening frequent meetings with the Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts and giving directions/ suggestions for translation of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements in vernacular language by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts, Law Secretary, Advocate General, the Secretary in-charge of translation department in the State have been requested to take steps for appointment of translators in every High Court for translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) as well as the High Court judgements into vernacular/ local language of that state.

As on 28.03.2025, 36344 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 47439 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal with the assistance of the High Courts (Annexure-I).

(c) Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these courts shall be in English language. However, sub-article (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in the proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State, may with previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to English language, for the purpose of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgement, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in English language issued under the authority of the High Court.

A conference of the Chief Justices of the High Courts was held in March 1965 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice of India. The recommendations of Chief Justices conference along with the recommendations of Official Language Commission (1955) were considered by the Cabinet Committee, which adopted the convention whereby the Chief Justice of India would be consulted before the President gave his consent to any such

proposal in its meeting dated 21.05.1965. The use of Hindi was authorised in Rajasthan High Court in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals as per the Cabinet Committee's decision in 1965 and the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting held on 11.10.2012, after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India in July, 2014. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations, unanimously resolved that the proposal could not be accepted.

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3783

Details of Supreme Court Judgments translated in Hindi language and in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal as on 28.03.2025.

Supreme Court Vernacular Judgements Available on e-SCR Portal		
Sl. No.	Local Language	No. of Judgements
1.	Assamese	340
2.	Bengali	3600
3.	Garo	7
4.	Gujarati	3361
5.	Hindi	36344
6.	Kannada	1942
7.	Kashmiri	1
8.	Khasi	4
9.	Konkani	16
10.	Malayalam	2996
11.	Marathi	2628
12.	Nepali	153
13.	Odia	378
14.	Punjabi	25004
15.	Santali	51
16.	Tamil	2808
17.	Telugu	1659
18.	Urdu	2491
Total		83783