

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 193
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

Third language policy in Maharashtra

193 Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of NEP, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework recommending a third language from Class 6 onwards;
- (b) if so, whether Maharashtra's move to make Hindi compulsory aligns with these guidelines;
- (c) whether this policy could burden non-Hindi speaking students, especially in Marathi-medium schools; and
- (d) whether the Centre will issue clarifications to ensure State-level language policies uphold linguistic diversity and do not disrupt educational balance?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025 ASKED BY DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI, HON'BLE MP REGARDING 'THIRD LANGUAGE POLICY IN MAHARASHTRA'.

(a) to (d) 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.

As a follow up to the NEP 2020 the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 which aims to enable all our students to learn at least three languages, so that students achieve independent reading and writing proficiency in three languages by the end of high school. At least two of these three Languages — R1, R2, and R3 — must be native to India. R1 is the first language in which students learn literacy, ideally their mother tongue or, if not feasible, the state language, with proficiency expected by age 8, R2 is the second language distinct from R1, with proficiency to be achieved by age 11 and R3 is the third language different from R1 and R2, with proficiency targeted by age 14.

Further, since Education is a subject under the Concurrent List of the Constitution, the respective State and Union Territory (UT) Governments may decide on the modalities of implementing the Three Language Policy, in accordance with the spirit and recommendations of the NEP, 2020. The Policy emphasizes the promotion of multilingualism and encourages States/UTs to adopt the Three Language Formula in a flexible manner, keeping in view local needs, linguistic diversity, and implementation feasibility.
