

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1933**  
**ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025**

**Three-Language formula under NEP, 2020**

1933 **Dr. John Brittas**

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

- (a) whether Government has mandated the implementation of the Three-Language formula under NEP, 2020 across the nation;
- (b) whether diverse linguistic preferences and mother tongue of local communities have been taken into consideration while formulating this formula;
- (c) whether consultations were held with State Governments and other stakeholders before finalising this three-language formula;
- (d) whether Government has received representations or objections against the implementation of this formula and NEP, 2020;
- (e) if so, details thereof and response thereto; and
- (f) whether Government is going to review NEP, 2020 to ensure that it does not undermine linguistic diversity and the constitutional rights of linguistic minorities in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f) 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 of NEP 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023 has been developed which provides a roadmap for implementation of NEP 2020 on Languages Education in India. The NCF aims to make a student an independent speaker, reader and writer in at least three languages denoted as R1, R2 and R3. R1 is the first language in which students learn literacy, ideally their mother tongue or, if not feasible, the state language, which would be a familiar 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.

Government of India regularly consults experts, linguists and state and national level policy makers, curriculum developers and implementers, practising teachers and students, parents, teachers, teacher educators, parents, NGOs and (also students) working in the field for policy formulations and curriculum development. Prior to the formulation of the National Education Policy 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 large number of stakeholders were consulted in person and also through digital means. All the regions / states were consulted and the opinions and practices of the various school systems were also taken into consideration for making of the policy.

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.

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