

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1199**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025/ AGRAHAYANA 19, 1947  
(SAKA)**

**INCLUSION OF KUDMALI LANGUAGE IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE**

**1199 SHRI SAMIRUL ISLAM:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government of West Bengal has recommended inclusion of Kudmali and Rajbanshi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India;**
- (b) the present status of this proposal and the reasons for delay in taking a decision thereon;**
- (c) whether the Union Government has constituted or consulted any expert committee to examine inclusion of these languages in Eighth Schedule; and**
- (d) the time frame within which Government proposes to take a final decision on this long-pending demand of the Kudmali and Rajbanshi speaking population spread across States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a) to (d): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of several languages, including Kudmali and Rajbanshi, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. However, there are no fixed criteria for consideration of any language for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. As the evolution of dialects and languages is a dynamic**

**process, influenced by socio-cultural, economic and political developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The earlier attempts, through the Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) Committees, to evolve such fixed criteria have been inconclusive. The Government is conscious of the sentiments and requirements for inclusion of other languages in the Eighth Schedule. Such requests have to be considered keeping in mind these sentiments, and the other relevant considerations. Since at present, there are no fixed criteria for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, no time-frame can be fixed for consideration of the demands for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.**

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