

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 394**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 2025/ AGRAHAYANA 12, 1947
(SAKA)**

**RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF RAJBONGSHI AND KAMTAPURI
LANGUAGES**

394 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the inclusion of Rajbongshi and Kamtapuri languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and if so, the current status of the proposal;

(b) the total number of people who have been awarded Padma Awards for their contributions to the promotion and preservation of Rajbongshi and Kamtapuri languages, and whether Government plans to introduce specific recognition for scholars of these languages; and

(c) the list of universities in India offering courses, degrees, or research programs in Rajbongshi and Kamtapuri languages and whether Government plans to expand academic opportunities for these languages?

ANSWER

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

(a): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of several languages, including Rajbongshi and Kamtapuri, 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.

(b): Language-wise data about the Padma Awards conferred for contribution towards promotion and preservation of a particular language is not maintained.

(c): List of universities offering courses, degrees or research programs in different languages, is not maintained in this Ministry. However, Government of India has established Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru for the promotion of Indian languages. Further, National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 focuses on the promotion of all scheduled and

non-scheduled Indian Languages. NEP, 2020 provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/mother tongue/local language upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8. The policy also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching.
