

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 759
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

CONDUCT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS IN TAMIL

759 Dr. M. Dhanapal:

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the long-standing demand to permit conduct of court proceedings in Tamil, particularly in the High Courts and subordinate courts of Tamil Nadu, in order to improve access to justice for litigants, witnesses and advocates who are more conversant with the Tamil language;
- (b) if so, the details and present status thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (c) As far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these Courts shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in 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 the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court

for that State and where any judgment, 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 the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

Government of India had received proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu to permit use of Tamil in the proceedings of the Madras High Court. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on the proposal as per the Cabinet Committee's decision taken 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 proposal.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decision 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.

As far as District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the provision of Article 235 of the Constitution of India vests the administrative control over these courts with the concerned High Courts in the respective states.
