

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1249
ANSWERED ON-29/07/2026

OFFICIAL STATUS FOR INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

1249. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received recommendations, including from the Kerala State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to recognise Indian Sign Language (ISL) as the 23rd official language under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution;
- (b) whether the proposal is under examination in the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to hold structured consultations with State Governments, experts and representatives of the deaf community to examine the feasibility and modalities of according such recognition and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) to (c): No recommendation has been received from the Kerala State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities regarding recognition Indian Sign Language (ISL) as the 23rd official language under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
