

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4039**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH, 2018/ PHALGUNA 29, 1939 (SAKA)

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

4039. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of regional languages have been given recognition by the Union Government;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of regional languages given recognition in the country, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh;**
- (d) whether demand for recognition of regional languages is rising in the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard, State-wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) to (c): At present, there are 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. These are as under:

- (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Odia, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.**

Several of these languages are spoken in several States, and their use is not restricted by State boundaries.

(d) & (e): At present requests have been received for inclusion of following 38 more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution:-

(1) Angika, (2) Banjara, (3) Bazika, (4) Bhojpuri, (5) Bhoti, (6) Bhotia, (7) Bundelkhandi, (8) Chhattisgarhi, (9) Dhatki, (10) English, (11) Garhwali (Pahari), (12) Gondi, (13) Gujjar/Gujjari (14) Ho, (15) Kachachhi, (16) Kamtapuri, (17) Karbi, (18) Khasi, (19) Kodava (Coorg), (20) Kok Barak, (21) Kumaoni (Pahari), (22) Kurak, (23) Kurmali, (24) Lepcha, (25) Limbu, (26) Mizo (Lushai), (27) Magahi, (28) Mundari, (29) Nagpuri, (30) Nicobarese, (31) Pahari (Himachali), (32) Pali, (33) Rajasthani, (34) Sambalpuri/Kosali, (35) Shaurseni (Prakrit), (36) Siraiki, (37) Tenyidi and (38) Tulu.

As the evolution of dialects and languages is dynamic, influenced by socio-economic-political developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages, whether to distinguish them from dialects, or for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Thus, both the earlier attempts, through the Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) Committees to evolve such fixed criteria have not borne fruit.
