

Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 257
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023

Legal Education in Hindi and Regional Languages

+*257. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been prepared to provide legal education to the children of India in Hindi and Regional Languages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme/taken steps to encourage the courts to conduct hearings and deliver judgements in Hindi and the regional languages so that even common people can read and understand the court decisions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*257 FOR THE 17TH MARCH, 2023 REGARDING 'LEGAL EDUCATION IN HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES'.

(a) to (c): The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education has informed that the National Education Policy, 2020 in its para 20.4 states that “Legal education needs to be competitive globally, adopting best practices and embracing new technologies for wider access to and timely delivery of Justice. At the same time, it must be informed and illuminated with Constitutional values of Justice -Social, Economic, and Political and directed towards National reconstruction through instrumentation of democracy, rule of law, and human rights. The curricula for legal studies must reflect socio-cultural contexts along with, in an evidence-based manner, the history of legal thinking, principles of justice, the practice of jurisprudence, and other related content appropriately and adequately. State institutions offering law education must consider offering bilingual education for future lawyers and judges in English and in the language of the State in which the Institution is situated”.

This Ministry of Law & Justice is emphasizing to promote and enhance use of Hindi and other regional languages in Legal Education and for conducting proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial fora. Further, a process of digitizing 65000 words Legal glossary to make it available to public and creation of an online platform to crowd-sourcing the coining of legal terminology for Indian Languages is in progress. Also this Ministry is in the process to identify frequently used words in the legal documents and creating a transitive vocabulary/common core vocabulary by coining words from common roots which would be adaptable by all the Indian languages so that the translation of legal documents from one Indian language to another Indian language would be easier. This Ministry is also planning to convene a meeting of Vice Chancellors of Law Universities, representatives of Bar and Judiciary to prepare Ten Year Perspective action Plan for Promotion of Indian Languages in Courts and Legal Education. Further, a committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble (Retd.) Chief Justice of India Shri. S.A. Bobde has been constituted by the Bar Council of India (BCI) to recommend measures to enhance the use of Hindi and other Regional languages, in Legal Education.

The Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that enabling Constitutional and Legal provisions in this regard are already in place. As per Article 348 of the Constitution and Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 there are provisions of optional use of Hindi and other (Languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution) in proceedings and judgments etc. of the courts. Under the aforementioned provisions, optional use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Courts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar was authorized in the year 1950, 1969, 1971 and 1972 respectively.