

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1450  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**DISPOSAL OF CASES IN HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES**

**1450. SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN:  
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRI S. VENKATESAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to allow use of regional languages in High Courts of various States and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the extent to which cooperation from various States is being sought for disposal of cases by using Hindi and other regional languages along with or without English;**
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a common legal dictionary for the use of courts in legal system of regional languages;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to prepare more virtual courts in the country for speedy trial of pending cases to reduce its number and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a)to (d):** Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), 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.

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.

The use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'BharatiyaBhashaSamiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The committee is developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

(e): Virtual Courts is a concept, aimed at eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. The concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle traffic challans. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24X7. As on 01.12.2022, there are 21 such courts in 17 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Rajasthan. Over 2.40 crore cases (2,40,28,319) have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347 (347.86) crores has been realized till 02.01.2023.

However, the establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and the respective State Governments.

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