

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Sanskrit Compulsory Subject in School

†1838. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sanskrit has not only the common linguistic legacy of all parts of India, but also been pointed for its unique role in the development of mind by many researchers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps to make Sanskrit a compulsory subject in school education on the lines of Uttarakhand and Assam;
- (c) if so, the efforts taken/being taken by the Government in this regard along with the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) Sanskrit language and literature have played a vital role in the development of most of the languages in India and abroad. It has laid the foundation of great Indian culture whose horizons stretch backwards to times immemorial in the hoary past. Sanskrit serves as a repository of the unique cultural heritage of ancient India. Sanskrit has been the strongest and the most enduring force ensuring the unity of this great land of immense social geographical and cultural diversity. Sanskrit is the most prominent source of soft power that India wields in the world today. Sanskrit also provides the theoretical foundation of ancient sciences.

(b) to (d) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, *inter-alia*, provides that the three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions, and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity. However, there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India. The NEP, 2020 also provides that Sanskrit will be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an important, enriching option for students, including as an option in the three-language formula.
