

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3144**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 17, 1945 (SAKA)

INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE

3144. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to include Kudmali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote Kudmali language in the country;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government is aware that Kudmali language which is spoken by Kudmis of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar States is at the verge of extinction due to non-existence of a script; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the measure taken by the Government to include Kudmali language in the Eighth Schedule?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (f): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of several Indian languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution including Kudmali. However, there are no fixed criteria for consideration of any language for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The attempts to fix such criteria through Pahwa and Sitakant Mohapatra

Committees have remained inconclusive. As the evolution of dialects and languages is a dynamic process, influenced by socio-cultural, economic and political developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The Government is conscious of the sentiments and requirements for inclusion of other languages in the Eighth Schedule. Such requests have to be considered keeping in mind these sentiments, and the other relevant considerations.

Government of India has established Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru which works for the promotion of all Indian languages including Kudmali. Under its Bharatavani project, CIIL is working on 121 languages of India by digitizing the knowledge text available in these languages. CIIL has also published a Hindi-English-Kudmali dictionary. In the case of Kudmali, where script is not available Devanagri script may be used for writing. Further, National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 focuses on the promotion of all scheduled and non-scheduled Indian Languages. NEP, 2020 provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/mother tongue/local language upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8. The policy also provides for making available high quality text books in home language/mother tongue and encouraging teachers to use bilingual approach while teaching.
