

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-604
ANSWERED ON- 24/07/2023

PROMOTION OF LOCAL/REGIONAL LANGUAGE IN HEIs

604. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:
SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all the Universities to implement teaching in local/regional languages in higher/technical education institutions;
- (b) whether it is also true that the Universities have been asked to present a list of main topics or courses for which textbooks, reference books or study materials had to be written or translated into local languages so that the work could be undertaken;
- (c) whether the UGC has made any attempt to know the availability of subject experts and scholars who could write or translate textbooks in local/regional languages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Promotion and regular use of Indian languages in education is a crucial area of focus in the National Education Policy, 2020. The policy emphasizes the importance of teaching and instruction in the mother tongue/local languages. It lays thrust on the need to optimize communication in all Indian languages for better cognitive attainment and the development of a holistic personality of the learners. Accordingly, University Grant Commission vide its letter dated 19.04.2023 has requested all Universities that students be allowed to write the answers in local languages in examinations even if the programme is offered in English medium; promote translation of original writing in local languages and use local language in the teaching-learning process at Universities. Vide this letter, UGC has also inter-alia asked Universities to provide information regarding discipline-wise list of the main topics/courses for which textbooks/reference books/study materials must be written/translated into local languages and discipline-wise availability of faculties/subject experts/scholars who can write or translate textbooks/reference books/study materials in local languages in institution/ University.

Further, the UGC in coordination with the Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti has undertaken the original writing and translations of standard text books in various Indian languages for graduate level students in India.
