

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-419
ANSWERED ON- 05/02/2024

BHARTIYA BHASHA UTSAV 2023

419. SHRI LALLU SINGH:
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:
DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI DINESH LAL YADAV "NIRAHUA":
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and vision of the Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2023 and the details of the summit thereof;
- (b) the ways by which the New Education Policy aims to integrate technology into the new education system in order to promote and preserve rich linguistic heritage of the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to leverage technology for Bhartiya languages and promote search engine localization?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 lays a lot of stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. NEP provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language/ regional 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. In order to achieve this objective the Government is integrating multilingualism at school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in

Indian languages so that students have the choice to study in their mother tongue/local language. In addition to this, educational institutions are being encouraged to organize activities to celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of the country from time to time. The Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav is one such activity being organized by the Government. The programme is focused on celebrating diversity and developing harmony and national integrity through Indian languages. As part of this utsav, 75 days of celebrations are being organized in various schools, colleges and other institutions across the country involving students, teachers and other staff by organizing activities like exhibitions, language quiz, speech, debates, extempore in different languages, poetry recitation and essay writing competition in various languages, creative performances depicting lok parampara and folk art forms, street plays and dramas, etc.

(b) & (c): National Education Policy 2020 places strong emphasis leveraging technology for strengthening various facets of education including preserving and promoting the nation's diverse linguistic heritage/diversity. For leveraging technology for Bharatiya Bhashas, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is running a Bhasha Sangam programme as also a Machine Translation cell. The Bhasha Sangam program aims to enhance language learning by encouraging learners to learn basics of 22 languages. This endeavour is seen as a significant step in fostering language understanding and promoting a deeper appreciation of diverse culture through educational system. To facilitate the dissemination of education in a child's native language, NCERT has established a Translation Cell which is translating various books into the scheduled languages. Course material including text books and teaching resource are available on Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) portal in 33 Indian Languages. In order to further facilitate education through Indian languages, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also asked its affiliated schools to consider using Indian languages, as enumerated in the Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution, as the medium of instruction from Foundational stage till end of Secondary stage i.e. from pre-primary classes till class XII as an optional medium in addition to other existing options. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have leveraged Anuvadini App to translate books for Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses and

Technical books like engineering and law in multiple Indian languages. The translated books are available on eKUMBH portal. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been conducted in 13 languages. Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) is now conducted in 13 languages. Technical education is being imparted in certain (AICTE) approved institutions in 8 regional languages.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 scheduled Indian languages in the open source. Currently, 290 pre trained AI driven language models have been made available in Bhashini platform in 22 scheduled languages for text to text translation and 10 Indian scheduled languages and English for voice to voice translation, transcription and dictation. The Bhashini open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been list in API Setu (<http://apisetu.gov.in>). Bhashini APIs are available for anyone to integrate with any application. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) models of ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) can be used for voice search in Indian languages. Unicode support in search engines helps search in Indian languages. All 22 scheduled languages are represented in the Unicode standard, and facilitates searching in Indian languages.
