

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3715**

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

**Use of Regional Languages in High Courts**

†3715. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to allow use of regional languages in the High Courts of various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from various State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status thereof, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (d): Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution states that 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 the 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 proceedings in the 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.

The requests relating to use of Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati and Kannada in the High Courts of Calcutta, Madras, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Karnataka accordingly were forwarded to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 18.01.2016 has conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberation, disapproved the proposals, reiterating the previous resolutions on the subject which had unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

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