

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 364**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021/ ASHADHA 29, 1943 (SAKA)**

**INCLUSION OF RAJASTHANI LANGUAGE IN EIGHTH SCHEDULE**

**364. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) the major languages next to Hindi on the basis of the speaker of those languages in the country;**

**(b) the position of Rajasthani language in this series;**

**(c) whether any such languages have been included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution which have less number of speakers than Rajasthani language;**

**(d) if so, the details thereof;**

**(e) whether the Government proposes to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution; and**

**(f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d): A total of 22 languages of India are specified under the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. As per the information received from the Registrar General of India, the number of persons and the percentage of people who speak the 22 specified languages under Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India as per Census 2011 is at Annexure. Further, as**

**per Census 2011, Rajasthani is grouped as a mother tongue under Hindi and is spoken by 2,58,06,344 persons.**

**(e) & (f): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. 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 criteria for languages, whether to distinguish them from dialects, or for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The earlier attempts, through the Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) Committees, to evolve such fixed criteria have been inconclusive. Government of India 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.**

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**STATEMENT SHOWING THE INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.364 FOR 20.07.2021**

<b>Scheduled Languages in descending order of speakers' strength--2011</b>			
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Persons who returned the language as their mother tongue</b>	<b>Percentage to total population</b>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>
1	Hindi	52,83,47,193	43.63
2	Bengali	9,72,37,669	8.03
3	Marathi	8,30,26,680	6.86
4	Telugu	8,11,27,740	6.70
5	Tamil	6,90,26,881	5.70
6	Gujarati	5,54,92,554	4.58
7	Urdu	5,07,72,631	4.19
8	Kannada	4,37,06,512	3.61
9	Odia	3,75,21,324	3.10
10	Malayalam	3,48,38,819	2.88
11	Punjabi	3,31,24,726	2.74
12	Assamese	1,53,11,351	1.26
13	Maithili	1,35,83,464	1.12
14	Santali	73,68,192	0.61
15	Kashmiri	67,97,587	0.56
16	Nepali	29,26,168	0.24
17	Sindhi	27,72,264	0.23
18	Dogri	25,96,767	0.21
19	Konkani	22,56,502	0.19
20	Manipuri	17,61,079	0.15
21	Bodo	14,82,929	0.12
22	Sanskrit	24,821	<b>N</b>

***N - Stands for negligible.***