GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2292

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022/ PHALGUNA 24, 1943 (SAKA)

INCLUSION OF BHOTI LANGUAGE IN EIGHTH SCHEDULE

2292. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to include Bhoti Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is planning to declare Bhoti as Official Language of the UT of Ladakh, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the details thereof along with the other proposed languages to be Official Language of UT of Ladakh and the dialects of people speak in Ladakh;

(e) whether the Government has planned to recognize any dialects as Official Language of UT of Ladakh, if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote Bhoti Language in the country during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of Bhoti language 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 criterion 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. The 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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