

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4870
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2022

TEACHING OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

4870. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware about a circular dated 08th December 2021 issued by the Army Welfare Education Society which States that only English, Hindi and Sanskrit and no regional languages will be taught in Army Public Schools across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for implementing such decision across the 156 Army Public Schools across the country;
- (c) whether the Ministry can intervene to make arrangements for teaching regional languages to students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b) to (e): No, Sir.

(i) Army Public Schools are established under aegis of Army Welfare and Education Society to cater to education requirements for wards of Indian Army Personnel who hail from diverse backgrounds and regions of India with different mother tongues.

(ii) Unlike other schools with students from the immediate and extended locality, all 136 Army Public Schools are enrolled primarily with wards of Indian Army Personnel, who have been transferred-in from another location.

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- (iii) Due to the nature of service, Indian Army Personnel are transferred frequently, at short notice, and mostly in the midst of the academic calendar and at times in field locations away from their families.
- (iv) The relatively limited period of stay of families with serving personnel in station and frequent transfer necessitated standardisation of the languages i.e. English, Hindi and Sanskrit which was undertaken since inception of the schools in 1950.
- (v) The change of regional language in the middle of an academic session will place unnecessary educational burden, in addition to emotional turmoil due to academic instability that Army wards have to endure when transferred into a new environment every few years.
