

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

LOK SABHA

Unstarred Question No.2786

To be answered on 18/03/2025

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

2786. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the timeline for the conversion of 500 NBT books into Indian Sign Language (ISL);
- (b) the manner in which the schools and special education institutions be integrated into this initiative;
- (c) whether there are any training programs planned for teachers and educators on how to use ISL-based storybooks in classrooms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) The conversion of National Book Trust (NBT) books into Indian Sign Language (ISL) commenced on 20th January 2025. As of 7th March 2025, the recording of 24 books has been completed. The process of conversion is being carried out in a phased manner. Additionally, five NBT books from the Veergatha series have been launched for use by schools, parents and the general public.

(b) The Veergatha series books are available on social media platforms and the official YouTube channel of ISLRTC, where a dedicated playlist has been created. ISLRTC is a partner of NCERT in the PM e-VIDYA DTH ISL channel, and these books have been telecasted on the ISL TV channel, ensuring wider outreach to schools, special education institutions, parents, and teachers. The PM e-VIDYA DTH ISL channel is also available on YouTube. Recently, a program titled "Speak with Your Hands, Connect with Heart" was conducted in collaboration with NCERT to enhance accessibility for stakeholders.

(c) and (d) The Veergatha series books have been included in various training, awareness and orientation programs of ISLRTC. The details of the conducted programs are as follows:

(i) Five Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) have been conducted for teachers, parents and principals.

(ii) Three training programs were conducted for the Army Welfare Education Society, covering special educators, counselors, parents and principals.

(iii) Schools, special schools, and voluntary organizations working in the disability sector were oriented on these books during the International Week of the Deaf (IWD) 2023.

(iv) Public awareness about these books was raised through ISLRTC exhibition stalls at events such as Divya Kala Mela, IITF and Purple Fest Goa.

(v) The World Book Trade Fair featured a dedicated inclusive stall where these books were exhibited for public awareness.
