

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 329**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025/ MAGHA 15, 1946 (SAKA)

KARBI LANGUAGE

329. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Karbi Tribes which are predominantly inhabited in the several parts in the State of Assam as well as in some North-Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether there are demands that Karbi language must be immediately included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution by considering to use Roman scripts as their scripts;

(c) whether the Government and the Department of Official Language has initiated any steps and time bound for inclusion of Karbi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution by considering to use Roman scripts as their scripts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per available information, 'Karbi' is a notified tribe in the Scheduled Tribe list of Assam. As per the Census 2011 data, out of a total number of 5,28,503 people speaking Karbi language as their mother tongue, 5,11,732 people reside in Assam, 14,380 in Meghalaya, 1,536 in Arunachal Pradesh, 584 in Nagaland and 107 in Manipur.

(b) to (d): There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of several languages, including Karbi, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. However, there are no fixed criteria for consideration of any language for inclusion 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 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 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.
