

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 151
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Three-Language Policy

151. Shri Manickam Tagore B:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's reconsideration of its stance on the three-language policy, particularly on making Hindi optional, indicate a lack of clear vision and decisive leadership in education policy;
- (b) whether the Government consider consulting with linguistic and educational experts to develop a comprehensive language policy that balances regional identity with national integration;
- (c) the manner in which the Government respond to allegations of political expediency in withdrawing the Government resolutions on Hindi, and doesn't this decision undermine the National Education Policy's objective of promoting multilingualism; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by the Government to prevent similar policy flip-flops in the future and ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of students and the State's linguistic heritage?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) The Parliamentary Resolution (1968) (also known as National Policy on Education 1968) adopted the three language formula for implementation in national and state level school systems.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, in para 4.13, provides that the “three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the

Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions, and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity. However, there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India.”

As a follow-up of NEP 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023 has been developed which provides a roadmap for implementation of NEP 2020 on Languages Education in India. The NCF aims to make a student an independent speaker, reader and writer in at least three languages denoted as R1, R2 and R3. R1 is the first language in which students learn literacy, ideally their mother tongue or, if not feasible, the state language, which would be a familiar language, with proficiency expected by age 8, R2 is the second language distinct from R1, with proficiency to be achieved by age 11 and R3 is the third language different from R1 and R2, with proficiency targeted by age 14.

Government of India regularly consults experts, linguists and state and national level policy makers, curriculum developers and implementers, practising teachers and students, parents, teachers, teacher educators, parents, NGOs and (also students) working in the field for policy formulations and curriculum development. Prior to the formulation of the National Education Policy 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 large number of stake holders were consulted in person and also through digital means. All the regions / states were consulted and the opinions and practices of the various school systems were also taken into consideration for making of the policy.

Further, since Education is a subject under the Concurrent List of the Constitution, it is for the respective State and Union Territory (UT) Governments to decide on the modalities of implementing the Three Language Policy, in accordance with the spirit and recommendations of the NEP, 2020. The Policy emphasizes the promotion of multilingualism and encourages States/UTs to adopt the Three Language Formula in a flexible manner, keeping in view local needs, linguistic diversity, and implementation feasibility.
