

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2484**  
**ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025**

**Introduction of Third Language in Primary Classes**

†2484. Shri Tariq Anwar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has directed State Governments/Union Territories to introduce a third language for students of primary classes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is implemented; and
- (c) the details of States which have already implemented the same alongwith year of implementation?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, *inter-alia*, at 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. In particular, students who wish to change one or more of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6 or 7, as long as they are able to demonstrate basic proficiency in three languages (including one language of India at the literature level) by the end of secondary school.

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 aims to enable all our students to learn at least three languages, so that students achieve independent reading and writing

proficiency in three languages by the end of high school. At least two of these three Languages — R1, R2, and R3 — must be native to India.

R1 is the first language in which students learn literacy, ideally their mother tongue or, if not feasible, the state 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.

Further, Education being a subject in the Concurrent list of the Constitution, the respective States/Union Territories Governments may decide the implementation of the Three Language Policy in the spirit of NEP 2020.

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