

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2022.

Promotion of Hindi in the Proceedings of Courts

591. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- a) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote Hindi in the proceedings of the High Courts and the Supreme Court;
- b) the guidelines laid down by Government to promote Hindi as the local language in the functioning of the courts;
- c) whether Government proposes to make the judgements issued by the High Courts and the Supreme Court compulsorily available in local and Hindi languages; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Use of regional language in lower courts is a subject matter of States.

Article 348 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used

for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

The use of Hindi in proceedings in High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

(c) and (d): At present, judgments in twelve vernacular languages are being translated and uploaded on the website of the Supreme Court of India. The twelve languages are: Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odiya, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Nepali, Malyalam and Punjabi. Besides this, judgments are also being translated to Garo and Khasi dialects. The translation of judgments relates to cases arising under the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India in relation to the following subject categories:

1. Labour matters;
2. Rent Act matters;
3. Land Acquisition and Requisition matters;
4. Service matters;
5. Compensation matters;
6. Criminal matters;
7. Family Law matters;
8. Ordinary Civil matters;
9. Personal Law matters;
10. Religious and Charitable Endowments matters;
11. Simple money and Mortgage Matters;
12. Eviction under the Public Premises (Eviction) Act matters;
13. Land Laws and Agriculture Tenancies; and
14. Matters relating to Consumer Protection.