

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1929  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005  
MAKING ENGLISH A COMPULSORY SUBJECT  
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the NCERT has proposed to make English a compulsory subject from Class I in all schools throughout the country;
- (b) if so, whether this proposal will give additional advantage to urban elite and students of public schools over the students in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) effects of declaring Sanskrit as a classical language in school curriculum?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ( SMT. KANTI SINGH )

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

(d) Sanskrit as a classical Indian language has always occupied its due place in the Indian educational system. National Curriculum Framework 2005 recommends the study of Sanskrit as a Modern Indian Language also in which the nature of its teaching/learning should be very different from that of classical Sanskrit. This is not to underestimate the importance of Sanskrit for nurturing our cultural heritage.

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has recently approved the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 formulated by NCERT. NCF-2005 makes a renewed attempt to implement the three-language formula. Its primary aim is to promote multi-lingualism and national harmony. NCF 2005 points out that there are many studies have shown that bin-lingual professionalism raises the levels of cognitive growth, social tolerance, diverse thinking and scholastic achievement.

According to NCF 2005, English in India is a global language in a multi-lingual country. English does not stand alone.