

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2059

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014

USE OF HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES

Chauhan Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai; Sonker Smt. Neelam; Udhayakumar Shri M.

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

- (a) the details of States where Hindi and regional languages are used for argument and proceedings in High Court;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to allow the advocates to argue in Hindi in Supreme Court/ regional languages including Hindi in the High Courts and proceedings thereof in Hindi/regional languages and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement the jurisdiction system in regional languages or in Hindi for those who do not know English language and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether certain High Courts are delivering judgements in regional languages of the respective States and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take steps for use of regional language/Tamil in Madras High Court and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (d): Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides. No law has since been made in this regard by the Parliament.

In terms of the provisions under Article 348 (2) of the Constitution and Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi has been authorized in the proceedings as well as in the judgments, decrees or orders in the High Courts of the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(e): Government of India received a request from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding use of Tamil in the proceedings of the Madras High Court. Government had also received requests from Government of Gujarat and Government of Chhattisgarh regarding use of Gujarati and Hindi respectively in the proceedings of the High Courts in their States. Government had taken up these requests with the Chief Justice of India. The Full Court of the Supreme Court considered the requests in its meeting held on 11th October, 2012 and reiterated the earlier similar resolutions of the Full Court adopted in 1997 and 1999 to not accept the requests. The Government has abided by this decision.

Based on another request received on 10th June, 2014 from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government has again written to the Chief Justice of India on 4th July, 2014 in this regard.