

**Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO. 479
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022**

Legal Education in Hindi and other Regional Languages

479 # MS.DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

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

- (a) whether any plan has been prepared by the Government to impart, legal education to students in Hindi and all other Indian regional languages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action plan has been prepared by Government to carry out the legal proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial authorities in Hindi and other regional languages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): The Department of Higher Education has informed that the National Education Policy, 2020 in its para 20.4 stated that “Legal education needs to be competitive globally, adopting best practices and embracing new technologies for wider access to and timely delivery of Justice. At the same time, it must be informed and illuminated with Constitutional values of Justice -Social, Economic, and Political and directed towards National reconstruction through instrumentation of democracy, rule of law, and human rights. The curricula for legal studies must reflect socio-cultural contexts along with, in an evidence-based manner, the history of legal thinking, principles of justice, the practice of jurisprudence, and other related content appropriately and adequately.

State institutions offering law education must consider offering bilingual education for future lawyers and judges in English and in the language of the State in which the Institution is situated”.

This Ministry is emphasizing to promote and enhance use of Hindi and other regional languages in Legal Education and to carry out the legal proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial. We are digitizing 65000 words Legal glossary and make them available to public and creating an online platform to crowd-sourcing of the coining of legal terminology for Indian Languages. Further, This Ministry is in the process to Identify frequently used words in the legal documents and creating a transitive vocabulary/common core vocabulary by coining words from common roots which would be adaptable by all the Indian languages so that the translation of legal documents from one Indian language to another Indian language would be easier. This Ministry is also planning to convene a meeting of Vice Chancellors of Law Universities, representatives of Bar and Judiciary to prepare Ten Year Perspective action Plan for Promotion of Indian Languages in Courts and Legal Education. Further, a committee under chairmanship of Hon'ble (Retd.) Chief Justice of India Sh. Bobde has been constituted by the BCI to recommend measures to enhance the use of Hindi and other Regional languages in Legal Education.

The Ministry of Home affairs has informed that enabling Constitutional and Legal provisions in this regard are already in place. As per Article 348 of the Constitution and Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 there are provisions of optional use of Hindi and other (Languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution) in the proceedings and judgments etc. of the courts. Under the aforementioned provisions, optional use of Hindi in the proceedings of high Courts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar was authorized in the year 1950, 1969, 1971 and 1972 respectively.