

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1146
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Multilingual Education

1146 SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has instructed all its affiliated schools to make use of educational material which will focus on learning in one's mother tongue and encourage multilingual education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the Indian Institute of Languages have collaborated to produce a series of 52 entry-level primers tailored to various mother tongues and local languages spoken across the country; and
- (d) whether it is true that the schools are encouraged to promote the use of these primers among teachers and students to develop strong language skills in their native language, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had issued a circular on 21.07.2023 to all its affiliated school to consider adopting Indian languages listed in Schedule 8 of the Constitution as optional mediums of instruction, alongside existing options. This multilingual approach spans from the Foundational Stage (pre-primary classes) through the Secondary Stage (up to Class XII). It had recommended that schools leverage available resources, seek guidance from field experts, and foster collaborations with other institutions to share effective practices.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru have jointly developed 54 Primers and these were released in March, 2024. The CBSE has also issued a circular on 07.05.2024 to its affiliated schools about the availability of Entry-Level Primers for Mother Tongues, Local Languages, and Home Languages developed by NCERT and the CIIL. The circular encourages schools to utilize these primers as tools for developing students' language skills in their native tongues.
