

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5130

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION OF LANGUAGES IN EIGHTH SCHEDULE

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash; Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz; Mishra Shri Mahabal

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted for the inclusion of a language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as an official language;
- (b) whether any committee has been set up to revise/change the criteria;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition and terms of reference of the committee; and
- (d) the time by which Government is likely to take a final decision on the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

- (a): No criteria has been laid down in the Constitution of India for inclusion of a language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- (b) to (d): A committee was set up in September 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The committee submitted its report in 2004 and made certain recommendations.

The composition of the committee is as follows:

- (i) Shri Sitakant Mohapatra - Chairperson
- (ii) Shri Bh. Krishnamurti - Member
- (iii) Shri B.K. Sharma - Member
- (iv) Shri Gopi Chand Narang - Member
- (v) Dr. Birendranath Datta - Member
- (vi) Shri S.R. Faruqui - Member
- (vii) Prof. Suraj Bhan Singh - Member
- (viii) Shri Udaya Narayan Singh - Member
- (ix) Secretary, Deptt of - Member Secretary Official Language

The terms of reference of the Committee:-

- (i) To evolve a set of objective criteria with reference to which all proposals/ representations for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule could be examined and finally disposed of and also consider the feasibility of including languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution for which requests have been received.
- (ii) To study the feasibility of treating all 18 languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution as Official Languages.

The report of the committee is under consideration in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. No time frame can be fixed for consideration of the demands for inclusion of more languages including Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule.