

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3567
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
INTRODUCTION OF BODO LANGUAGE
Bwiswmuthiary Shri Sansuma Khunggur

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that in spite of having received a lot of representations from the West Bengal Bodo Sahitya Sabha and also from the Central Bodo Sahitya Sabha and many other organizations, the State Government of West Bengal has not yet introduced Bodo language as a medium of instruction at the primary stage of education in Bodo-Mech villages in North Bengal in pursuance of Article 350A of the Constitution of India;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard in order to persuade the State Government of West Bengal to introduce primary education in Bodo language for Bodo-Mech children of North Bengal;
- (c) if not, whether the Union Government proposes to direct the State Government of West Bengal in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): It has been reported by the Government of West Bengal that the West Bengal Board of Primary Education has not received any representation for introduction of Bodo language as the medium of instruction. According to Article 350 A of the Constitution of India, "it shall be the endeavour of every state and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups". The Government of India has consistently supported the view that mother tongue is the best medium of instruction at the primary stage. The National Curriculum Framework (2005) also endorses the use of mother tongue in primary education. Section 29(2) (f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 also provides that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue.