

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2333  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011  
USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN COURTS  
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the judgements/orders/ petitions in Supreme Court and various High Courts are being pronounced in English only;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the necessary measures being taken by the Government for pronouncing judgements in Hindi only or bilingually (Hindi and English) in Supreme Court and High Courts for ensuring wide propagation and promotion of Hindi in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (c) : 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. Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Under Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments etc. made by the High Court for that State.

So far the Governors of four States namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have authorized the use of Hindi in addition to English language in the proceedings as well as the judgments, decrees etc. of the High Courts in their States. The matter regarding promotion of use of Hindi or regional languages in Courts rests with the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court of the State.