

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2172

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

USE OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN COURTS

Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments to authorize the use of their regional languages in the proceedings in various Courts of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Constitution with regard to use of Hindi and other regional languages in higher judiciary;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the States where Hindi and regional languages are being used in High Courts and the States in which English continue to be the language of Higher Courts; and
- (f) the reasons for keeping English as the official language of the Supreme Court?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) : The Government has received proposals from State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat regarding use of Hindi, Tamil and Gujarati in the proceedings of the Chhattisgarh, Madras and Gujarat High Courts respectively. The Full Court of the Supreme Court considered the proposals for use of Hindi and regional languages in the High Courts in its meeting held on 11th October, 2012 and reiterated the earlier similar resolutions of the Full Court adopted in 1997 and 1999 to not accept the proposals. The Government has decided to abide by it.

(e) : Under Article 348(2) of the Constitution, Governor of the State can authorize the use of Hindi or any other language in proceedings of the High Courts having its principal seat in that State but with the previous consent of the President. In terms of this provision, 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 of the High Courts in their States. In other States, English continues to be the language of their respective High Courts.

(f) :The Supreme Court in 1990 and 1996 resolved in Full Court that it was not practical to introduce Hindi in the proceedings of the Supreme Court.