

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
EXCLUSION OF PERSIAN AND ARABIC FROM UPSC EXAMINATIONS
Begum Tabassum ;Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Arabic and Persian languages have been excluded from the competitive examinations conducted by the UPSC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is reviewing its decision in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for exclusion of both these languages from the competitive examinations; and
- (f) the details of basis or criterion for inclusion or exclusion of language in the list of languages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (f): A committee was constituted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in December, 2011 under the chairmanship of Prof. Arun S.Nigavekar, former Chairman, UGC to review the then existing system of Civil Services (Main) Examination.

The scheme of Civil Services (Main) Examination underwent some changes from Civil Services Examination (CSE) – 2013, on the basis of recommendations of the Nigavekar Committee and the recommendations of UPSC thereupon.

While sending its recommendations the Commission inter-alia proposed to keep the literatures of only those languages in the list of subjects to be available as an optional in the scheme of Civil Services (Main) Examination, which are presently included in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution of India, besides English. This recommendation of the UPSC was approved by the Government.

The Persian and Arabic language not being a part of the languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India do not figure in the list of language subjects.

Presently, there is no proposal to review the above decision.