

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5013

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014

SANSKRIT WEEK

P. Shri Nagarajan;Sundaram Shri P.R.;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) whether any State Government has expressed its objections to organise Sanskrit Week from August 7 to 13, 2014 in the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE);
- (b) if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request(s) from any State Government(s) to modify the instructions issued by CBSE to celebrate Sanskrit Week in tune with language and culture of respective State(s);
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) Sanskrit Day is organized on the Shravan Purnima as per the Samvat Calendar every year since 1969 by various institutions across the country. Similarly, Sanskrit Saptah or the Sanskrit Week is celebrated every year since 2001. This year the Sanskrit Saptah will be celebrated from 7th to 13th August, 2014. Two letters were sent by Ministry of HRD to all States/UTs to celebrate Sanskrit Saptah in a befitting manner. A letter from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu against celebration of Sanskrit Week has been received mentioning that the Tamil Nadu state has a rich cultural heritage based on the ancient Tamil language. She has requested to organize a Classical Language Week in each State based on the linguistic heritage of that State. She has also requested to modify the letter including the Schools affiliated to CBSE to enable each State to organize celebrations in tune with the language and culture of the state.

Sanskrit, along with other classical Indian languages, is an important part of our ancient cultural heritage. The policy of this Government is to encourage all Indian languages.