

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3366**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH MARCH, 2021/ PHALGUNA 25, 1942 (SAKA)

NORMS FOR INCLUSION OF LANGUAGES

†3366. SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of norms for including dialects/ language under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and**
- (b) the name of the State whose language was included last time in the said Schedule including the name of the language along with the year of inclusion?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) As the evolution of dialects and languages is a dynamic process, influenced by socio-cultural, economic and political developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages, whether to distinguish them from dialects, or for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The earlier attempts, through the Pahwa (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra (2003) Committees, to evolve such fixed criteria have been inconclusive. Therefore, there are no fixed criteria for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the constitution. The Government of India is conscious of the sentiments and requirements for inclusion of other languages in the Eighth Schedule. Such requests have to be considered keeping in mind these sentiments, and the other relevant considerations.

(b) At present, the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution specifies the following 22 languages:- (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri. Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter, three languages, viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004. Several of these languages are spoken in several States and their use is not restricted by State boundaries.
