

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3243**  
**ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023**

**Promotion of regional languages in schools**

3243 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to promote education in different languages (mother tongues) in schools; and

(b) what are the steps being taken to promote and encourage India's rich linguistic traditions in primary education?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) and (b) The Government recognizes and accords due importance to the promotion of multilingual education in schools, keeping in view India's rich linguistic traditions. The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, inter-alia, provides that wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. Further, NEP 2020 states that the three language formula will continue to be implemented keeping in mind Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions and the Union and the need to promote multilingualism and national unity. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of states, regions and the students.

The National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement - NISHTHA 3.0 has been launched to train the teachers from Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) upto grade V. It has 12 training modules including a module on Multilingual teaching in foundational years, which also covers usage of mother tongue / home language in teaching.

As per the recommendations of NEP 2020, states and UTs are suggested to take measures for the promotion of regional languages in schools. The use of mother tongue and multilingualism as strategy for pedagogic inputs is recommended for overall cognitive benefits.

NEP recommends that there will be a major effort from both the Central and State governments to invest in large numbers of language teachers in all regional languages around the country, States, and also to encourage the study of Indian languages across the country. Extensive use of technology will be made for teaching and learning of different languages and to popularize language learning. The NEP 2020 also recommends high quality textbooks, including in science, in home languages/ mother tongue

The NEP 2020 recommends in cases where home language/mother tongue textbook material is not available, the language of transaction between teachers and students will still remain the home language/mother tongue wherever possible. Teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction. All languages will be taught with high quality to all students.

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