

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) and (b) Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides. Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Based on proposals received from State Governments including the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding use of Hindi/regional languages in the proceedings of certain High Courts, Government had taken up the matter with the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court had not accepted the proposals. The Government has abided by the decision.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) was requested again on 04.07.2014 to reconsider the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India to provide for greater flexibility for the use of Hindi and regional languages in High Courts. The Supreme Court has informed that the matter is to be placed before the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India again and steps are being taken for placing it before the Full Court.

Creation of special benches in High Courts

1478. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to create special benches in all High Courts to decide election petitions, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has carried out any study regarding the time taken by High Courts and the Supreme Court to decide election petitions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the estimated cost of creation of such special benches in all the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.