

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2745
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

Mandatory teaching of official language/local language in NEP, 2020

2745. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether teaching of official language/local language has been made mandatory in higher education institutions/colleges/universities in National Education Policy (NEP), 2020;
- (b) whether study of English language has been kept equivalent to other Indian languages or whether as earlier the 'three-language formula' is being followed in context of teaching Indian languages; and
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of fact that the study of Hindi language is getting affected or whether there is any updated information about negative impact on education due to English language being kept equivalent to Indian languages in higher education in some States like Karnataka, etc.?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a): One of the fundamental principles of National Education Policy-2020 (NEP 2020) is 'promoting multilingualism and the power of language in teaching and learning'. NEP 2020 states 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. It further recommends for use of mother tongue/local language as a medium of instruction, and/or offer programmes bilingually in the higher education system.

(b) and (c): National Education Policy 2020, like National Education Policy 1968 and 1986, reiterates that three language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in view the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity. However, there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India. The policy of Government of India is to promote Indian Languages.
