GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.907
ANSWERED ON-09/02/2023

JUDICIAL PROCESS IN LOCAL LANGUAGES

907. # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch any scheme to introduce the use of local language in the judicial process to provide a speedy justice to the people, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of courts proposed to function in that mode across the country, the State-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. The use of Hindi was authorized in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan (Year 1950), Uttar Pradesh (Year 1969), Madhya Pradesh (Year 1971) and Bihar (Year 1972).

In order to make the judicial proceedings and judgements more comprehensive for the grasp of common citizen, specific efforts have been made for translation of proceedings and judgements from English to other regional languages.

As informed by the Registry of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Supreme Court passes verdicts in many subject categories out of which verdicts passed in 14 subject categories are being translated into any of the related 14 vernacular languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali, Garo,

Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu through respective High Courts.

Further, SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) which is an Artificial Intelligence based software has the ability to translate judicial domain documents from English to Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu and vice-versa.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted "Bhartiya Bhasa Samiti" chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The Committee is developing a common core vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

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