

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.656
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

CURRENT STATUS OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES IN THE COUNTRY

656. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in the country has published any report during the last five years on the status of these minorities in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b) The Article 350 B (1) of the Constitution of India provides for appointment of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, known as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities by the President. The Commissioner is mandated under Article 350 B (2) to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the president may direct.

The Commissioners-in-charge have been actively engaged in monitoring implementation of the safeguards for linguistic minorities which rests with the respective States/UTs by appointing Nodal Officers. Therefore, their active cooperation is the key in safeguarding the interests of linguistic minorities in the respective States/UTs. Incidentally, the amendments regarding removal of Hindi, Urdu and Santhali languages in the main-examination of West Bengal Civil Service (Executive) was referred to the Government of West Bengal for the benefit of the linguistic minorities to continue to get the opportunity to write the examination in their mother tongue.
