

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4572

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2013/VAISAKHA 18, 1935 (SAKA)

**INCLUSION OF LEPCHA, BHUTIA AND LIMBU IN EIGHTH SCHEDULE OF  
THE CONSTITUTION**

4572. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pending proposal/decision to include any Indian languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) whether any proposal to include Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu as official languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution has been received from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the decision taken so far on the proposal?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): At present, there are demands for inclusion of 38 more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, including Bhotia, Lepcha and Limbu. A Committee was constituted in 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria with reference to which all proposals/representations for including more languages in the Eighth Schedule could be examined and finally disposed of. Since there are no criteria for inclusion of language in the Eighth Schedule, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Ministry made an in-depth study of the whole gamut of the issue, including recommendations of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra committee to suggest a set of uniform criteria which may pave the way for deciding inclusion or otherwise of a language in the Eighth Schedule. Final decision is yet to be taken.