

O.M. No. I/14012/34/75-OL (C), dated 6.1.1976

Subject:—Optional use of Hindi as alternative medium of examination for recruitment of subordinate services and non-technical posts.

Hindi in Devanagari script is the Official Language of the Union. However, English continues to be the sole medium of examinations conducted for recruitment to various services and posts in the subordinate offices of the Central Government. The question of allowing optional use of Hindi as alternate medium of examinations for recruitment to subordinate services and posts of the Government of India has been under consideration for quite sometime. After giving careful thought to the various aspects of the matter and in consultation with the various Ministries/Departments, it has been decided that the optional use of Hindi as alternative medium in examinations conducted on regional or local basis for direct recruitment to sevicees and posts in the subordinate offices of the Government of India may be allowed in the *manner indicated* below:—

- (a) In respect of examinations conducted for recruitment to non-technical subordinate posts under the Central Government, candidates may be allowed the option to answer all papers either in Hindi or in English except the paper on General English;
- (b) In respect of examination for technical posts also candidates may be allowed to answer papers either in Hindi or in English. However, if some paper is on a highly technical subject and the concerned Ministry/ Department do not consider it feasible to allow the optional use of Hindi for answering the said paper, the final decision in this respect should be taken in consultation with the Department of Official Language;
- (c) There should be a compulsory paper on English in all these examinations.
- (d) To begin with, the above decision may be made applicable to examinations for recruitment in Central Government offices located in Hindi speaking States.
- (e) Arrangements may be made for printing of question papers in these areas both in Hindi and English.
- (f) Where an interview or oral test is held for such posts the candidates may be allowed the option to answer in Hindi.

2. The Ministry of Finance etc. are requested to allow the option of Hindi medium in the examinations for direct recruitment conducted by their attached and subordinate officers located in Hindi speaking areas. A copy of the instructions issued in this regard may also be endorsed to the Department of Official Language.