RTI REQUEST No. BISHQ/R/E/22/00009

Date: 14 Jan 2022

Query

Executive Director and COO, Unicode Consortium conveyed on Aug 29, 2021 through email that the issue of updating the unicode code chart Bengali to Bengali - Assamese was recommended in the meeting i.e. Results of the ad-hoc meeting on Assamese in London, 2018-06-19 For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC. A set of recommendations were made at the ad-hoc meeting regarding Assamese, but progress on those recommendations has been awaiting further input from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India.

Now kindly provide the following information

1. Whether any input has been submitted to Unicode on this matter? a. If yes, kindly share. b. If Not, kindly share the reason for not submitting and when it is expected to submit.

Answer:

No, we have not submitted any input to Unicode in this regard. Reason is given below.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 did not accept the proposal for a new code table for Assamese script in ISO/IEC 10646 (Unicode), however, they agreed to add the names of Assamese script as annotations in the table. Also agreed to change the block header from Bengali to Bengali-Assamese, and advised India to submit a revised proposal for the same (for adding annotations

Subsequently, the Assam government conveyed they cannot accept the resolution passed by JTC 1/SC 2 and again submitted a revised proposal for including "a new code table for Assamese script in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard". The same was discussed in the BIS committee- LITD 20 meeting held on 10th May 2019 and the committee was of the view that the revised proposal submitted by Assam Govt was not in line with the suggestion made by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2. Therefore LITD 20 constituted a new panel, namely, LITD 20/P 9 to review the revised proposal submitted by the Assam Govt. and to recommend improvements required in the revised proposal.

The panel met in November 2019 and recommended some changes to be made in the revised proposal for which inputs were sought from Assam Govt.

The input from the Assam Government is awaited, we will be submitting the revised proposal to JTC 1/SC 2 once we get the required input from the Assam government and approval from the concerned technical committee, i.e. LITD 20 Indian Language technologies and Products Sectional committee.