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Cc: Mahabir Laishram <mahabir.languagecell@gmail.com>, mjain@mit.gov.in, slata@mit.gov.in
Date: 07/24/2013 02:00 PM
Subject: Unicode response on Meetei Mayek

Dr. Rajendra Kumar, IAS
Joint Secretary
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Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
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Dear Dr. Kumar,

The Unicode Consortium is in receipt of your letter dated 22-4-2013 regarding the encoding of the Meetei Mayek script. You are correct that the initial encoding of the Meetei Mayek script included only the 56 characters used in the current orthography. As the mission of the Unicode Standard is to encode characters in support of many user communities, including scholars, at a later date an additional 23 characters for historical Meetei Mayek were added to the Unicode Standard. These 23 characters were added to enable all involved in historical and scholarly work to more easily study earlier texts.

The Unicode Technical Committee would welcome input from the Governments of India and the State of Manipur on how to minimize any confusion. If there are suggestions as to the documentation of Meetei Mayek in the Unicode Standard, please send them to me. We definitely wish to clearly state the intended use of the historical characters. Currently, in the code charts of the Unicode Standard for Meetei Mayek Extensions, it states:

"The characters in this block are extensions for historical orthographies of Meetei and are not specified in the Manipuri Government order No. 1/2/78-SS/E".

If we can be more clear, please us know. Unfortunately, once encoded, a character can never be removed from the Standard. We trust, that by working together, we will be able to document the situation clearly enough so that users of the modern orthography are not confused.

I look forward to hearing your response. Thank you for your communication.

With warmest regards,

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