

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022**

Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages

**2349. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:
SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:
SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) the number of Indian languages listed as endangered;
- b) the number of languages that are currently covered under 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' and the number of languages covered under any such scheme from Andhra Pradesh;
- c) whether the Government has prepared any database of the Indian languages that are on the verge of extinction and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- d) whether the Government has proposed to preserve the endangered languages with the help of new emerging technologies and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- e) the funds allocated and utilised in preservation of languages under various schemes during the last five years; and
- f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to save the languages which are endangered or on the verge of extinction?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (f): The National Education Policy, 2020 focuses on promotion of all Indian Languages including endangered languages. The Government of India has initiated a Scheme known as "Scheme for Protection and Preservation of

Endangered Languages of India” (SPPEL). Under this Scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 people which are called endangered languages. 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also initiated two schemes for protection of endangered languages, namely ‘Funding Support to the State Universities for Study and Research in Indigenous and Endangered languages in India’ and ‘Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages in Central Universities’. There is no centralised data on the number of endangered languages in India. Materials produced by SPPEL towards the documentation, promotion and preservation of such languages are archived and e-content of these languages such as dictionaries, grammar sketches, audio and visual data are hosted in the website <https://www.sppel.org>.

Thoti and Gorum languages are covered under SPPEL in Andhra Pradesh by CIIL, Mysuru.

An amount of Rs.48.90 crores released by the UGC and CIIL under their Schemes for Protection of Endangered Indian Languages during the years 2015-16 to 2021-22.
