

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2850  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004  
DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY MINORITY COMMUNITY  
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether certain guidelines have been laid down by the Government for the development of languages spoken by the minority community people in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to encourage and develop the Mahal or Dhivehi language spoken by the people of Minocoy Island and Lakshadweep; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT )

(a) & (b): The Government of India is committed to the development of all Indian languages including the languages spoken by the minority community people in the country. Various institutions and organizations under the Government of India have been set up for the purpose. Of these organizations, Central Institute of Indian Languages, (CILL), Mysore, works for the development of all Indian languages (other than Hindi, Urdu, Sindhi and Sanskrit for which separate organizations exist) including tribal and minority languages. The activities of the Institute include research, material production, conducting teachers training and organizing workshops, seminars and conferences etc. in these languages. CILL, Mysore, has prepared a primer in Mahal language and trained teachers from Mahal speaking community through orientation programmes in language teaching methods and in applied linguistics. The Institute has also prepared a film to motivate adult literacy in Mahal.

(c): Does not arise.