

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:440
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
RECOGNITION OF LANGUAGES
MUTTEMWAR SHRI VILAS BABURAO

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many of the languages listed in 1961 census have been eliminated in subsequent census;
- (b) if so, the number of languages listed in 1961, 1971 and thereafter; and
- (c) the norms laid down for recognition of regional languages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducts decennial Population Census in which data on mother tongues is also collected. As per the information provided by that office the data collected at Census is respondent based. In Census 1961, name of all mother tongue returns were published irrespective of the number of speakers. Accordingly, there were 1652 mother tongues. However, since Census 1971 onwards, in accordance with the decisions of the Govt. of India, names of only such mother tongues which are returned by 10,000 or more speakers at all India level have been published. The number of mother tongues with 10,000 or more speakers at the all India level returned in different Censuses is as under:

CENSUS NUMBER OF MOTHER TONGUES WITH 10,000
 OR MORE SPEAKERS AT ALL INDIA LEVEL

1961 208

1971 132

1981 112

1991 216

2001 234

The provisional results of Census 2011 have only been released so far, which do not include data on mother tongues/languages