

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6668  
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012  
RECORD OF DIALECTS LANGUAGES  
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any record to show that several dialects/languages have died out in the country over the last decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, dialect/language-wise and State/Union Territory-wise; and
- (c) the efforts being made to prevent such instances in future so that the loss of a language/dialect does not lead to loss of culture?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner (RGI), India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducts decennial Population Census in which data on languages/mother tongues is also collected. In the Census 1961, there were 1652 mother tongues. However, since Census 1971 onwards, in accordance with the decision 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 Census has increased from 208 in Census 1961 to 234 in the Census 2001.

(c) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India is mandated as an apex body to help in evolving and implementing the language policy of the Government of India and to assist and advise the State Governments on matters of language and coordinate the development of Indian languages inter alia also implements several projects/schemes for promotion of Indian languages including those spoken by less than 10,000 persons. It has also produced dictionaries, grammars, primers, etc. in some of these languages. In addition, the Ministry has set up a Round Table under the Chairmanship of Human Resource Development Minister for protection and preservation of Indigenous Traditional knowledge and Endangered Languages. On the recommendation of the Round Table, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to all Central Universities to set up a centre for endangered languages.

Further, the Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture works actively for the development of Indian letters, to set high literary standards to foster and coordinate literary activities in all the Indian Languages. Besides, the Akademi also organizes activities and programmes in various tribal/minority languages .