

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5209
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has reported that some languages in the country including Uttarakhand's Garhwali, Kumauni and Jaunsari have become extinct or are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the promotion/development of languages including regional languages and to revive the languages that have become extinct; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total funds allocated and utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) As per information provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, UNESCO's "Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger" has listed 196 languages of India with five categories of endangerment varying from vulnerable to extinction. Garhwali & Kumauni are listed under the 'Vulnerable' category whereas Jaunsari is under the 'Definitely Endangered'.

(b) As per information received from Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, in the five previous consecutive censuses i.e. 1961-2001, Garhwali, Kumauni and Jaunsari have shown positive growth in every decade. Further, Bodo, Manipuri, Mizo, Kashi, Garo and Kokborok has been shown as endangered languages in the above report. Aimol, Andro, Sengmai and Tarao included in the report as extinct are very much alive as established in a study conducted by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. Therefore, the report of the UNESCO does not conform to the ground reality in totality.

(c) to (d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up a Round Table for protection and preservation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Endangered Languages. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore established for developing Indian languages implement several projects/schemes for promotion of Indian languages including Tribal and endangered languages like Dimensions of language Endangerment, North Eastern Language Development, Bhasha Mandakini and Languages Information Services (LIS). CIIL have undertaken data collection, description, documentation and material production such as pictorial glossaries, grammatical analysis, dictionaries, primers and audio-visual documentations on 55 languages. The expenditure is incurred on projects and programmes which cuts across the States' boundaries. Therefore, State-wise data is not maintained. However, the total expenditure incurred on all languages including tribal, endangered, classical and scheduled languages by CIIL during the last three years is as follows:

2009-10	Rs.8.78 crores
2010-11	Rs.8.11 crores
2011-12	Rs.10.43 crores