

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6859
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
TRIBAL DIALECTS
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) the estimated number of tribal dialects present in the country ;
- (b) whether the tribal dialect is on the verge of extinction ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Union Government to protect the tribal dialect ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) : The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner (RGI) , India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, conducts a decennial Population Census in which the data on languages/mother tongues is collected. No record is maintained by the Office of the RGI in respect of dialects.

(b) to (d) : In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise. However, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CILL), Mysore, under this Ministry, mandated for the promotion of Indian languages through its 'North East Language Development Scheme' and 'Centre for Tribal and Endangered Languages' works for the preservation, promotion and scripting of all the languages/mother tongues spoken in India including the tribal languages/mother tongues/dialects. The Government through the CILL has taken steps to preserve and protect the most endangered languages/mother tongues during the 12th Five Year Plan under the scheme 'Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages'. The Scheme envisages the protection and preservation of 520 languages/mother tongues spoken by less than 10000 persons, in order of increasing number of speakers starting from the languages having the least number of speakers.

The scheme has the following components:

- A. Documentation of languages and literature in oral traditions
- B. Formulating/designating scripts and typography codes
- C. Preparation of dictionaries
- D. Preparation of pictorial glossaries
- E. Preparation of an Encyclopedia of Endangered Languages
- F. Need Based area specific Surveys
- G. Holding Conferences and Seminars