

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6536
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
ENDANGERED LANGUAGES
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several native languages of the country have been listed as endangered;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the inalienable connection between culture and language, the cultures to which these endangered languages belonged are also endangered; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps being taken for protecting these languages and cultures from extinction?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) The UNESCO in its 2009 Report on Language Endangerment has listed 196 Indian languages /mother tongues facing different levels of endangerment. However, all of them are not endangered.
- (b) The reasons for the endangerment could be either because of migration of speakers from one language to another or because of depletion of the population due to socio economic adversities.
- (c) Once the language becomes endangered the culture and heritage are also endangered.
- (d) A scheme for 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, is implemented by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CILL), Mysore for the 12th Five Year Plan period.