

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2789
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013
PRESERVATION OF LINGUISTIC BRANCHES
Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to preserve linguistic sub-branches and oral traditions of hill and other communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, community-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up a nationwide network of database to capture and store all the oral traditions of India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a)&(b) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CILL), Mysore, a subordinate office of Ministry of Human Resource Development, is implementing the scheme for the preservation and protection of languages spoken by less than 10000 people during the current Five Year Plan through documentation of their linguistic features which includes various activities like preparation of grammars, dictionaries, encyclopedias, collection of folklores, formulating scripts and typography codes, etc. The CILL has already documented more than hundred languages belonging to various linguistic sub branches including oral traditions of hill communities like Khasi (Meghalaya), Bodo (Assam), Aka and Khampti (Arunachal Pradesh), Liangmai, Maring and Tangkhul (Manipur), Ao, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Sangtam (Nagaland), Kuvi (Odisha), Lepcha (Sikkim) and Jenu Kurumba (Karnataka). The Institute is also working on the documentation of many other languages including the oral traditions of hill and other communities by collecting the linguistic and ethno-linguistic data and preserving them in audio, video and print formats.

(c)&(d) Yes Madam. The Government has set up an Expert Group to recommend the framework for preparation of safeguarding and protecting of Intangible Cultural Heritage which would also include oral traditions of India.

(e) Not applicable.