

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1682
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
POPULATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of ethnic minorities in the country having distinct culture, language and other practices;
- (b) the total number of languages spoken by the ethnic and linguistic minority that have been recognised by the respective State Governments, language and State- wise;
- (c) the total number of these languages included so far in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to include Kokborok language in the said schedule; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a): As per information obtained from Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Nodal Ministry in Government of India for all policy matters on minority communities, no information of ethnic minorities is available in the Ministry.
- (b): Ministry of Minority Affairs states that Linguistic minorities have not been defined in the Constitution or by any Statute. They get defined when their mother tongue differs from regional language of the area. They are identified by the State Government / Union Territory on the basis of Census data. Population Census is conducted by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India in the Ministry of Home Affairs once a decade wherein data on various parameters including that on languages / mother tongues are collected. The data on Mother Tongues are presented in the form of Language Tables under Scheduled (Part A) and Non-Scheduled (Part B) categories. State/ UT-wise list of languages / mother tongues as returned in Census 2001 have been published in Paper-1 of 2007, Language Volume and Series-1-India, Language Table C-16 which are placed in the Parliament Library, Lok Sabha Secretariat and the same may be referred to. Census 2011 data on Mother tongues are not yet finalized.
- (c) to (e): At present, 22 languages are included in Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. These are (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepali, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu and (22) Urdu.