

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2436
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
ENDANGERED LANGUAGES
Simha Shri Prathap;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

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

- (a) the names of languages presently in use in the country;
- (b) the details of endangered languages identified in the country including Karnataka which are flagged for attention, region-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that nearly 8 non-tribal and non-scheduled languages spoken in Karnataka have not been brought on record in the census statistics and are facing the threat of becoming extinct and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to promote the endangered languages under Protection and Conservation of Endangered Languages of India Scheme and if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT.SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a): According to the Census of India-2001 there are 1635 rationalised mother tongues including scheduled and non-scheduled languages and foreign mother tongues. Out of these, 234 languages and mother tongues are spoken by more than 10000 persons each and the remaining languages are spoken by fewer than 10000 persons each in the country. The Census publishes names of only those languages and mother tongues which are spoken by more than 10000 persons and this information is available in the public domain censusindia.gov.in
- (b): The list of endangered languages identified in the country including Karnataka is given in the Annexure.
- (c): Yes Madam. The Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL), Mysore have identified the following languages/ mother tongues of Karnataka as endangered.

Kuruba : Mysore district
Hakkipikki : Nomads - spread across Karnataka
Toda : In and around Nilgiri Hills
Kota : In and around Nilgiri Hills
Koraga : Udipi, Mangalore and Kollegala regions
Soliga : Mysore, Hunsur and Chamrajnagar districts
Bellara/Bellari : Udipi district
Kutia/Kudia : Chikamagalur, Udipi and Kodagu districts

The above languages are not included in the list of Census of India-2001 for the reason that the Government of India does not publish the data on languages/mother tongues spoken by less than 10000 persons.

- (d): The Government of India has initiated a scheme known as 'Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India'. Under this scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL), Mysore works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 people. In the first phase of the scheme, 116 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis.