

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3925
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
EXTINCTION OF LANGUAGES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many tribal and regional languages dialect in the country including Jharkhand are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Government has not conducted any study to assess the level of endangerment of Indian languages, but it is aware of the study conducted by the UNESCO. According to the criteria adopted by the UNESCO, a language becomes extinct when nobody speaks or remembers the language. The UNESCO has categorized languages on basis of endangerment as follows:-

- (i) Vulnerable
- (ii) Definitely Endangered
- (iii) Severely Endangered
- (iv) Critically Endangered

The Critically Endangered Languages as per UNESCO Report are at Annexure.

(c) 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 Languages (CILL), Mysore works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 speakers keeping in mind the degree of endangerment and reduction in the domains of usage.