

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3163
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Script/Lipi for Tribal Languages
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether almost 470 types of local dialects/languages without script/lipi are spoken by Tribals in the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the existing policy of the Government for recognizing the script/lipi and conservation of said languages; and
- (c) the total number of script/lipi recognized, documented and preserved till date along with the number of proposals pending with the Government and action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) to (c): Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (RGI), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, conducts a decennial Population Census in which the data on languages/ mother tongues is collected. No record is maintained by Office of the RGI in respect of dialects. Official recognition regarding adoption of script for language/ dialect vests with State Governments. All languages/ dialects/ mother tongues need not have script. One language can be written in many scripts. There are no guidelines to adopt a script for one particular language/ script.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated a Scheme namely 'Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' (SPPEL). Under this Scheme, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CILL), Mysore works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/ languages of India which are spoken by less than 10,000 people.
