

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017

Extinction of Languages

Kashyap Shri Virender

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many languages are on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to save languages from extinction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government is aware that some languages are identified as endangered languages. A list of endangered languages in India is given in the Annexure. The Government of India has initiated a Scheme known as "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India" (SPPEL). 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 people. The Government has also initiated a Project known as "Bharatavani" implemented by the CILL for all languages, especially the languages spoken by more than ten thousand persons, in the cyberspace. This Project aims to build a searchable knowledge repository in and about all the languages in India in multimedia (text, audio, video, images) formats through an online portal. University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a scheme 'Study and Research in Indigenous and Endangered language in India' and approved grants to the nine Central Universities and six State Universities for Establishment of Centres for Endangered Language in these Universities during 12th Plan.