

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1822  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014  
PROTECTION OF MINORITY LANGUAGES  
Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

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

- (a) the details of minority languages in the country and the number of speakers of these languages;
- (b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the protection of minority languages;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study about endangered minority languages in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): There is no language called minority language. The Census of India has classified languages in the categories of Scheduled and Non-Scheduled languages. There are 22 Scheduled and 100 Non-Scheduled languages. The Government of India has a Scheme known as "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India". Under this Scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), 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.