

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE

2121. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is actively engaged in promoting and preserving India's indigenous languages and cultural heritage and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government collaborates with State-level institutions to organize local and regional programmes, including seminars and workshops to promote indigenous languages and literature and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Yes, the Government of India is actively engaged in promoting and preserving the country's indigenous languages and cultural heritage.

Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, working for the promotion of Indian literature in 24 languages. The Akademi encourages the preservation and promotion of languages, not only the recognized languages but specially the unrecognized and tribal language of India.

In order to preserve and promote unrecognized and Tribal languages of India, Sahitya Akademi has been bestowing Bhasha Samman to the writers/scholars/researchers in these languages.

The Akademi celebrates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August each year by organizing an All India Tribal Writers' Meet. To further preserve and promote oral and tribal literature, it has established dedicated centres in Agartala and Delhi. In the first edition of UNMESHA – the International Literature Festival (Shimla, 16-18 June 2022), around 30-35 tribal writers representing more than 25 tribal languages participated. The second edition (Bhopal, 3 to 6 August 2023), inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, featured over 575 writers from India and foreign, took part in 85 literary programmes, and almost 103 languages were represented.

- (b) Yes, the Government of India collaborates with state-level institutions to promote indigenous languages and literature. Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, regularly partners with State Akademis, universities, and recognized literary organizations to organize regional programmes, seminars, and workshops for the promotion and development of both recognized and unrecognized Indian languages.
