

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2523**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

**LINGUISTIC MINORITIES**

2523. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) steps taken by Government to promote, preserve other classical languages like Marathi, excluding Hindi and Sanskrit;
- (b) the funds allocated for the promotion of different classical languages during the last five years; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to preserve and protect tribal languages?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (c) The National Education Policy (NEP) of Ministry of Education, 2020 emphasizes the promotion of multilingualism and encourages efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant including Classical Languages and Tribal Languages. It focuses on promotion of all Indian languages, and recommends, wherever possible, the use of the mother tongue/local language as the medium of instruction at least up to Class 5, and preferably up to Class 8. The Government is integrating multilingualism at both school and higher education levels by providing reading materials in Indian languages, enabling students to study in their mother tongue/ local language.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to promote Indian languages in higher education and technical fields. AICTE has provided engineering textbooks in 12 Indian languages. The first Marathi-medium engineering batch from Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering (Pune), graduated successfully. Major exams like NET, CTET, NEET, JEE, CUET, and SSC are now conducted in 12 Indian languages. Additionally, the UGC allows students to write exams in local languages, irrespective of the medium of instruction. The Commission for Scientific Technical Terminology has made over 20 lakh terminologies in 22 Indian languages publicly available. Technological advancements include AI-based translation tools developed by the Anuvadini Foundation (AICTE) and the UDAAN Project Team (IIT Bombay) and Bhasini.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has implemented several key initiatives to advance early literacy and multilingual education across India such as development of 117 primers in 22 Scheduled and 99 Non-Scheduled languages, along with 52 additional primers in local and mother tongues by NCERT and CIIL. Initiatives such as *Bhasha Sangam* (featuring 100 commonly used sentences in 22 languages), *Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav*, and the *Bharatiya Bhasha Summer Camp* (a 28-hour flexible program focused on language and cultural

learning) have fostered greater linguistic and cultural awareness among students. Innovative tools like *Jaadui Pitara* and its AI-enabled digital version, *e-Jaadui Pitara*, have introduced inclusive, play-based early education in 22 Indian languages, with support for Indian Sign Language (ISL). DIKSHA platform now offers multilingual digital content in 36 languages, The PM *e-Vidya* initiative has expanded to 200 DTH TV channels with vision of "One Nation, One Digital Platform", delivering curriculum-aligned content in various Indian languages.

The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages including classical languages. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) works for the promotion of all Indian languages including four classical languages viz. *Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam* and *Odia*. Development and promotion of Classical Tamil is done by Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. The Government of India is promoting Sanskrit Language through three Central Universities. Funds are provided as per the requirement and utilisation. The details of funds allocated for various Classical Languages are given below.

(Rs. in Lakhs)					
Language	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Kannada	127.50	106.50	171.75	154.50	83.50
Telugu	147.00	103.15	171.75	154.50	83.50
Malayalam	8.00	63.97	186.75	112.50	83.50
Tamil	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	1525.00	1430.00
Odia	8.00	58.38	176.75	138.50	83.50

The Government of India has initiated a Scheme known as "Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India" (SPPEL). Under this Scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 people which are called endangered languages. In the first phase of the scheme, 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation. Bharatavani, a digital knowledge platform dedicated to Indian languages, has represented 77 tribal languages, offering resources across language learning, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and glossaries.

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