GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1503
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2018

PROMOTION OF LANGUAGES

1503.   SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

a) whether the Government is aware that there are a number of languages on the verge of extinction as there is no steps taken to protect and promote the languages in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
b) whether the Government has conducted/proposed to conduct the different study on languages spoken in the country and if so, the details and the findings thereof;
c) whether the ASI has conducted any language survey to find out the number of languages being spoken by the various communities in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the number of languages listed by the ASI till date;
d) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that loss of language will attribute to diminish a culture of any society and if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided for the promotion of language and culture of Indian people in foreign countries; and
e) whether Harvard University of USA is mobilizing funds to establish a Tamil Chair to undertake research in Tamil and if so, the details thereof and the policy of the Government in extending financial grants to foreign universities to undertake research in language and culture of India?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) to (e):   The Government is aware that some languages are identified as endangered languages. The Government of India has initiated 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 people. The Government has also initiated a Project known as "Bharatavani" implemented by the CIIL 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 'Funding support to the State Universities for Study and Research in Indigenous and Endangered language in India' and approved   grants to the seven Universities, as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

No	Name of the University	Allocation	Grant released
1.	Jadavpur University, West Bengal	1,33,50,000/-	51,51,000/-
2.	Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu	95,65,000/-	87,25,000/-
3.	Dravadian University, Andhra University	1,60,50,000/-	78,50,000/-
4.	National Law University, Delhi	1,92,50,000/-	1,10,50,000/-
5.	Kerala University, Kerala	1,92,50,000/-	1,10,50,000/-
6.	Berhampur University, Odisha	1,92,50,000/-	1,10,50,000/-
7.	M.S University of Baroda, Vadodara	17,68,32,000/-	4,21,17,000/- (special project)

UGC has approved the following nine Central Universities for "Establishment of Centres for Endangered Language in Central Universities" during 12th Plan :

1. Tezpur University, Assam.
2. Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Sikkim University, Sikkim.
4. Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Madhya Pradesh
5. Central University of Jharkhand.
6. Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya, Chhattisgarh.
7. Central University of Karnataka.
8. Central University of Kerala.
9. Visva Bharati, West Bengal.

Information about activities of foreign universities is not maintained in the Ministry. Archaeology Survey of India (ASI) has informed that they have not conducted any language survey.

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