

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2497
ANSWERED ON - 18/12/2023

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AND LANGUAGE SURVEY

† 2497. SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of language being spoken in the country;
- (b) whether there is any such language which is on the verge of extinction in the country; and
- (c) the time when the last linguistic survey has been done in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) As per the Census-2011, there are 121 languages including 22 scheduled and 99 non scheduled languages in the country. In addition, there are 270 identifiable mother tongues having more than 10,000 speakers.

(b) The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian Languages including endangered languages. 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. 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis by CIIL.

(c) As informed by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, information regarding Mother Tongue and Other Languages Known is collected during the census enumeration, and according to the census tabulation plan, the C-16 table is prepared for scheduled and non scheduled languages.