

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1218
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020

TRIBAL LANGUAGES

1218: SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: -

- a. the details of the Tribal languages in the country;
- b. the steps are taken by the Government to promote Tribal languages and also to save them from extinction;
- c. if so, the details of the various schemes/initiatives undertaken, State-wise.
- d. whether the Government has digitized any of the tribal languages and if so, the details thereof;
- e. whether the Government is using Digital technologies to safeguard them and if so, the details thereof; and
- f. the details of the budget allocated or proposed and expenditure incurred for the above mentioned purpose?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has through studies found that there are 780 languages spoken in India of which 443 are said to be spoken by tribal communities. Details of such languages are maintained at <https://www.peopleslinguisticsurvey.org/>. This study has been made by the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, Gujarat that is recognized by Tribal Affairs Ministry as a Centre of Excellence to carry out research in the field of Tribal languages.

(b) & (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs extends support to State Governments / UTs for development of bilingual Primers for preservation of tribal languages and enhancement of learning achievement level amongst the Scheduled Tribe Students. So far 82 language primers have been developed by various State Governments. For instance Juang, Kisan, Koya, Oram, Saora in Odisha, Halbi, Korku, Bhili, Gondi in Madhya Pradesh and Khadia and Khorat in Jharkhand. This is an ongoing process.

(d) & (e): No, Sir

(f) Details of funds provided during last three years for development of language primers under the Scheme 'Support to TRI' and to Bhasha Research and Publication Centre (the CoE) under the scheme 'Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education' is as under:

Year	Funds provided to various States under the Scheme 'Support to TRI' (Rs. in Lakh)	Funds provided to Bhasha Research and Publication Centre under the Scheme 'Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education' (Rs. in Lakh)	Total (Rs. in Lakh)
2017-18	19.00	14.08	33.08
2018-19	184.00	41.00	225.00
2019-20	134.00	21.38	155.38