

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020

Endangered Indian Languages

1223. SHRI PARTHIBAN S.R. :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian languages or dialects which have gone extinct during the last three years;
- (b) the number of endangered Indian languages or dialects, originating in the North Eastern and Southern States; and
- (c) the steps being taken to preserve the endangered languages and dialects?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c) : 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), Mysore 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 on a priority basis. The University Grants Commission has also initiated two schemes for protection of endangered languages, namely 'Funding Support to the State Universities for Study and Research in Indigenous and Endangered languages in India' and 'Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages in Central Universities'.

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