

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

ENDORSEMENT OF ENDANGERED TRIBAL LANGUAGES

2162. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a) whether the endorsement of endangered tribal languages through innovative, cultural and entertainment programmes leads to better integration of the communities and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Government has collected any data regarding the best practices;
- c) if so, the details thereof; and
- d) if not, whether the Ministry intends to promote such programmes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The endorsement of endangered tribal languages through innovative and cultural programmes does instill a sense of pride among tribal communities. Under the scheme of 'Support to TRIs', Ministry extends support to TRIs for carrying out various research & documentation activities including programs for documentation of tribal languages, dialects, art, culture, dance, music and development of bilingual Primers. Accordingly, TRIs are conducting documentation and preservation of endangered tribal languages through preparation of primers, dictionaries and organization of cultural programmes.

Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTBMLE), an innovative pedagogic initiative which plays a key role in preserving tribal languages is adopted in Andhra Pradesh. This approach bridges gap between home and school languages which enable better learning.

Further, under the component "Financial Assistance for support to Centres of Excellence" of the scheme "Tribal Festival, Research, information and Mass Education", financial assistance is provided to reputed Institution for carrying out research study programmes including documentation of tribal languages. In this regard, Ministry has sanctioned projects to Bhasha Research and Publication Centre during 2018-19 and 2019-20 which inter-alia covered activity of identification and documentation of threatened/dying languages. The organization has carried out documentation of Korku, Nihali, Kolami, Vadi, Halpati, Dungra Bhili, Dhavadi, Dhatti, Thali, Nahal and Seheriya languages.

The Ministry has also recently developed a digital document repository (repository.tribal.gov.in) where TRIs have now started uploading all the activities, document, research reports, publications, which is available in public domain.

(d) Does not arise.
