

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3330**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH MARCH, 2021/ PHALGUNA 25, 1942 (SAKA)

LANGUAGES TO BE COUNTED IN CENSUS 2021

3330. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and details of languages that will be counted in Census 2021;**
- (b) the total number and details of languages to be counted under 'Hindi' in Census 2021;**
- (c) whether any of the 56 languages counted under Hindi will be classified as independent languages in the Census 2021;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) the rationale of the Government in classifying Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Khotta, Magadhi, Marwari and Rajasthani under Hindi and not as independent languages; and**
- (f) whether the Government is considering any other changes to language enumeration in the Census 2021 and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a): The names of the mother tongue and upto two other languages in order of proficiency are to be recorded by the enumerator in the forthcoming Census as responded. Due to outbreak of Covid-19, the Census activities have been postponed. During Census 2011, 19,569 raw

returns under the Mother Tongue / Language were received. Out of these raw returns, two lists containing a total of 270 mother tongues with 10,000 or more number of speakers were published. These two lists are contained under 121 languages Part A : Scheduled Languages (22) and Part B: Non-Scheduled Languages (99) of Statement 1 : Abstract of Speaker's Strength of languages and mother tongues - 2011 in the publication titled "Paper 1 of 2018 Language, India, States and Union Territories (Table C-16)" by Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.

(b) to (e): The collected lists of mother tongues/languages are classified in terms of their linguistic affiliation to the scheduled and non-scheduled languages following usual linguistic methods for rational grouping. The classification of Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Khotta, Magadhi, Marwari and Rajasthani under Hindi has been accordingly done.

(f): Collection of data in the forthcoming Census is to be done digitally.
