

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2521
TO BE ANSWERED ON-13/12/2021

PRESERVATION OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT OF KONDS TRIBES

2521. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Konds (also Khond, Kondhor Kondha) are the largest tribe in Odisha from the Kandhmal district;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the people of this tribe speak Kui language which is a rare Dravidian language written in Oriya script; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to preserve this primitive tribe, its culture, language and its script?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. As informed by Government of Odisha, Konds is the largest tribe of Odisha distributed in various pockets of southern Odisha including Kandhamal district. This community speaks 'Kui' language in Kandhamal district and 'Kuvi' language in Rayagada district. Kuvi language belongs to Dravidian linguistic group.

(c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to State Tribal Research Institutes for preservation and promotion of tribal languages. Further New Education Policy also stipulates that young children learn and grasp quickly in their home language and mother tongue. Accordingly, Central and State Government are making efforts to encourage multi-lingual policy for imparting education. The details of efforts made in preservation of language and culture are as under:

A. Language Preservation

- (i) Prepared Bilingual Dictionary in "Kui" and "Kuvi" languages.
- (ii) Prepared Trilingual Proficiency Module in "Kui" and "Kuvi" languages.
- (iii) Prepared Supplementary Readers in "Kui" and "Kuvi" language under Multi Lingual Education (MLE) Intervention.
- (iv) Prepared Primers for the students of Class-I, II, & III in both "Kui" and "Kuvi" languages.
- (v) Capacity building training of SSD School Teachers has been undertaken in both "Kui" and "Kuvi" languages

B. Culture Preservation

- (vi) Rare art, craft and artefacts are collected and showcased in Odisha State Tribal Museum (OSTM) to preserve and propagate tribal culture of this community.
- (vii) Various aspects of culture have also been documented (Audio Video Documentation) and showcased in Odisha State Tribal Museum
- (viii) Published Photo Handbook and also Monograph (The Kondhs of Odisha) on Kandha (Khond, Kond) community.
