

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3581
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022**

Preservation of Indian Languages

†3581. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the number of Indian languages that have already become extinct in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has analysed the reasons for their extinction; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the appropriate measures adopted or likely to be adopted by the Government to preserve the Indian languages?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy, 2020 focuses on promotion of all Indian Languages including endangered languages. 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), Mysuru 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. 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis. The University Grants Commission (UGC) 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'. There is no centralised data on

the number of endangered languages in India. Materials produced by SPPEL towards the documentation, promotion and preservation of such languages are archived and e-content of these languages such as dictionaries, grammar sketches, audio and visual data are hosted in the website <https://www.sppel.org>.
