

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2012**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

**PROTECTION OF TRIBAL LANGUAGES**

2012. Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi:

Will the Minister of **TRIBAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to protect tribal languages and oral traditions facing extinction and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the regions or tribes identified as priorities for language preservation;
- (c) whether any community radio or digital archive initiatives have been started for this purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to involve local youth in documenting oral literature and songs;
- (e) the details of financial support given to tribal scholars and researchers working on language and cultural preservation; and
- (f) whether the Government plans to publish bilingual dictionaries or teaching materials for endangered tribal languages and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

**(a) to (f):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)' extends financial support to 29 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in States/Union Territories (UTs) on the basis of the Annual Action Plan submitted by the States/UTs subject to the approval of the Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the scheme, proposals relating to, inter-alia research & documentation activities and training & capacity building programmes, organization of tribal festivals, yatras for promotion of unique cultural heritage and tourism and organisation of exchange visits by tribals are organised so that their cultural practices, languages and ritual are preserved and disseminated. TRIs are primarily institutions under the administrative control of the State Government/UT Administration. Under the scheme, funds are also provided for/to:

- i. Publishing Varnamala, local rhymes, and stories in tribal languages.
- ii. Publishing books, journals on different tribal languages to promote tribal literature.

- iii. Translation and publication of Training module about Sickle cell Anaemia disease Awareness and Counselling Modules and Diagnosis & Treatment Module and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material in relevant Tribal languages/Dialects.

Further, as informed, Ministry of Education, Government of India initiated the “Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)” under the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru in 2013. The Institute with the help of Core Committee identified 117 languages including tribal languages in its first phase to work upon in step wise manner. SPPEL aims to document the language & culture of the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 speakers by developing primers, bi/trilingual dictionaries (electronic and print formats), grammatical sketches, pictorial glossaries and ethno-linguistic profile of the community. List of the 117 languages is at **Annexure-I**. Local community people are integral part of SPPEL language documentation process. Community people are involved as language consultant during the fieldwork. Even community people are involved and invited in workshop, seminar & conferences related to language documentation.

Moreover, Bhasha Sanchika, the digital language repository of the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), where language preservation, dissemination, and technological advancement converge in a pioneering initiative. The primary objectives of the archive portal are to provide Indian linguistic resources in diverse formats - text, image, audio, and video; Aiding in creating language technology resources, language pedagogy materials, and other language-related products and services. The details available in the following link:

<https://sanchika.ciil.org/home>

CIIL has developed dictionaries under SPPEL and the list is at **Annexure-II**. In respect of teaching materials, CIIL has developed Primers on 117 languages (scheduled, non-scheduled & tribal) in collaboration with NCERT, New Delhi. The details available in the following link: [https://ciil.org/primers\\_book](https://ciil.org/primers_book).

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2012 for answer on 31.07.2025

**Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)**

**List of Endangered Languages Zone-wise**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Languages / MTs</b>	<b>Zone</b>
1	LAMONGSE	Andaman & Nicobar
2	LURO	Andaman & Nicobar
3	MOUT	Andaman & Nicobar
4	ONGE	Andaman & Nicobar
5	PU	Andaman & Nicobar
6	SANENYO	Andaman & Nicobar
7	SENTILESE	Andaman & Nicobar
8	SHOMPEN	Andaman & Nicobar
9	TAKAHANYILANG	Andaman & Nicobar
10	BHUNJIA	East Central Zone
11	BINJHIA/BIRJIA/BRIJIA	East Central Zone
12	BIRHOR	East Central Zone
13	BODO GADABA/ GUTOB	East Central Zone
14	BONDO	East Central Zone
15	DHIMAL	East Central Zone
16	DIDAYI / GATA	East Central Zone
17	GORUM	East Central Zone
18	HOLIYA	East Central Zone
19	MANDA	East Central Zone
20	MRU	East Central Zone
21	PARENGA	East Central Zone
22	THARUA	East Central Zone
23	THOTI	East Central Zone
24	TOTO	East Central Zone
25	AIMOL	North East Zone
26	ATONG	North East Zone
27	BAGI	North East Zone
28	BAITE/ BIATE	North East Zone
29	BANGRO	North East Zone

30	BAWM	North East Zone
31	CHINZ / ZYPHE	North East Zone
32	CHIRU	North East Zone
33	CHOTHE	North East Zone
34	DARLONG	North East Zone
35	DIRANG MONPA	North East Zone
36	GURUNG	North East Zone
37	KAGATE	North East Zone
38	KAMI / KHAMI	North East Zone
39	KHAMBA	North East Zone
40	KHAMIYANG	North East Zone
41	KHAMPTI	North East Zone
42	KOIRENG	North East Zone
43	KOMKAR	North East Zone
44	KONGBO	North East Zone
45	LAMGANG	North East Zone
46	LIJU	North East Zone
47	MARA	North East Zone
48	MEYOR /ZAKHRING	North East Zone
49	MOYON	North East Zone
50	MUKHIYA/ SUNUWAR	North East Zone
51	NAA	North East Zone
52	NEWAR / PRADHAN	North East Zone
53	NEWARI	North East Zone
54	PHAKIAL / TAI PHAKE	North East Zone
55	PUROIK / SULUNG	North East Zone
56	PURUM	North East Zone
57	RALTE	North East Zone
58	RANGLONG	North East Zone
59	SHERDUKPEN	North East Zone
60	SIMONG	North East Zone
61	SINGPHO	North East Zone
62	TANGAM	North East Zone
63	TARAO	North East Zone
64	THAPA	North East Zone
65	UCHAI	North East Zone
66	YOBIN/YOBIN LIJU	North East Zone
67	ZAKHRING	North East Zone

68	CHINALI	Northern Zone
69	DARMIYA	Northern Zone
70	GAHRI	Northern Zone
71	JAD	Northern Zone
72	JANGALI	Northern Zone
73	JANGSHUNG	Northern Zone
74	KANASHI / MALANI	Northern Zone
75	RONGPO	Northern Zone
76	SPITI	Northern Zone
77	BALASTIN	Northern Zone
78	BATERI	Northern Zone
79	BEDA	Northern Zone
80	BHADRALIAM	Northern Zone
81	DARGARI	Northern Zone
82	GOJAPURI	Northern Zone
83	HASSADI	Northern Zone
84	KHANA	Northern Zone
85	KHASHA/KHASH	Northern Zone
86	KUSHWAHI	Northern Zone
87	MASIDI	Northern Zone
88	MESHABI	Northern Zone
89	PADDARI	Northern Zone
90	SIAN	Northern Zone
91	SIRAM	Northern Zone
92	TEHGUL	Northern Zone
93	ARANDAN	Southern Zone
94	ERAVALLAN	Southern Zone
95	HAKKIPIKKI	Southern Zone
96	JENU KURUMBA	Southern Zone
97	KADAR	Southern Zone
98	KANIKER GOTTI	Southern Zone
99	KUTIYA	Southern Zone
100	MALAIMALASAR	Southern Zone
101	MALASAR	Southern Zone
102	MALAYAN	Southern Zone
103	MANNAN	Southern Zone
104	MOOPAN	Southern Zone
105	MUDUGA	Southern Zone

106	MUDUVAN	Southern Zone
107	PALIYA	Southern Zone
108	PULIYA	Southern Zone
109	SIDDI	Southern Zone
110	SOLIGA	Southern Zone
111	TODA	Southern Zone
112	URALI	Southern Zone
113	BARADI	West Central Zone
114	BHALA	West Central Zone
115	BHARWAD/BHARWADI	West Central Zone
116	DIWEHI	West Central Zone
117	NIHALI	West Central Zone

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2012 for answer on 31.07.2025

**Publications:**

Sl.No.	Title	ISBN
	<b>Published:</b>	
1.	Hakkipikki-Kannada-English Dictionary	978-93-94835-05-4
2.	Malayan-Malayalam-English Dictionary	978-93-94835-06-1
3.	Manda-Odia-English Dictionary	978-93-94835-25-2
4.	Lamkang-English Dictionary	978-93-94835-27-6
5.	Soliga-English-Kannada Trilingual Dictionary	978-93-94835-28-3
6.	A Dictionary of Soliga-English	978-93-94835-30-6
7.	Luro Dictionary	978-81-19411-54-2
8.	Sanenyo Dictionary	978-81-19411-88-7

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