

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 177

TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

PROTECTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

177. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of languages are prevalent in India, spoken in different region by various communities, sects and tribes etc. and the number of languages have their own script;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many of such languages have already become extinct or on the verge of extinction during the last fifty years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect these languages along with the culture and traditions interlinked with such languages?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) As per the Census of India 2011, (Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India), a total of 121 languages have been reported in the country. Several of these languages have their own distinct scripts, while others are written in shared or regional scripts.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry of Education through Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, under the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India (SPPEL), 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. In the first phase of the scheme, 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation, details of which may be found at **Annexure**.
- (d) The Ministry of Culture through Sahitya Akademi promotes literary dialogue and publication through awards, translations, and events in 24 recognized languages and many tribal and unrecognized languages. It also creates special programs and centers for documentation and preservation of oral and tribal literature, such as the Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature, and awards the Bhasha Samman to scholars working in less-recognized languages.

Annual Sahitya Akademi awards are conferred for literary works in 24 languages; and Translation Awards are also presented for translations into Indian languages.

ANNEXURE**Scheme for Protection and Preservation of
Endangered Languages (SPPEL)****List of Endangered Languages Zone-wise:**

Sl. No.	Languages / MTs	Zone
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	SENILESE	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
Sl. No.	Languages / MTs	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

Sl. No.	Languages / MTs	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