

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1914
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

PRESERVATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF ENDANGERED TRIBAL LANGUAGES

1914. SMT. PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to digitize, document and preserve knowledge of endangered tribal languages, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the initiatives led by the Government to use advanced technology such as artificial intelligence tools; and
- (c) whether the Government is taking initiatives to promote tribal literature and create platforms for tribal authors, if so, the details thereof especially to support emerging literary talent?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c): 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 rituals 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, considering the urgent need to safeguard tribal languages, the Ministry developed Adi Vaani platform and launched beta version of the App on 1st September 2025 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi for expert review and public feedback from the ground level. Adi Vaani is a pioneering, AI-powered translation tool dedicated to the protection, promotion, and revitalization of India’s rich tribal linguistic heritage and culture. Tribal languages embody rich traditions and unique worldviews but face the threat of extinction due to limited documentation and generational transmission gaps. The AI based translation tool aims to address these challenges by leveraging technology to ensure systematic digitization, preservation, and promotion of these languages. Adi Vaani translation tool is an innovation developed at

nearly one-tenth the cost of commercial platforms by integrating cutting-edge technology with authentic linguistic data collected by State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and has been designed with a feedback system to promote continuous improvement through community participation. The Adi Vaani App will help in preservation of Endangered Languages by creating a lasting digital archive for tribal languages, preserving them for future generations and research. It will position India as a leader in AI-driven preservation of endangered languages, setting a model for other nations.

In addition, recognizing tribal literature as a powerful medium to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and foster inclusivity in national discourse, the Ministry has also conducted two-day National Tribal Literary festival in Delhi. The initiative marked a continuous effort of the Ministry toward community-driven development and cultural empowerment. The event provides a platform for panel discussions, poetry recitations, storytelling sessions, and exhibitions bringing together tribal writers, artists, researchers, and policymakers from across the country marking a historic milestone in the ongoing journey of cultural rejuvenation and social justice.

Moreover, as informed, for the promotion of endangered/tribal languages, a project ‘Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)’ has been initiated by the Ministry of Education under the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru in 2013. The Institute with the help of Core Committee identified 117 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 are attached herewith as **Annexure I**.

Bhasha Sanchika, the digital language repository of the CIIL, where language preservation, dissemination, and technological advancement converge in a pioneering initiative. The primary objectives of the archive portal is 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. Kindly see **Annexure II**, the language covered under Sanchika. The details available in the following link: <https://sanchika.ciil.org/home>

CIIL, in collaboration with NCERT, has developed 128 Primers for 116 Indian languages. Out of which, 119 primers for 110 Indian languages have been released by the Ministry. Kindly see **Annexure III**. The details are available in the following link: https://ciil.org/primers_book_

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	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

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

Bhasha Sanchika**List of Languages**

Sl.No.	Language
1	Aimol
2	Ao Mongsen
3	Aranadan
4	Atong
5	Beda
6	Betta Kuruba
7	Bhadralium
8	Bharwad
9	Bhunjia
10	Biate
11	Birhor
12	Birjia
13	Bondo
14	Car Nicobarese
15	Chinali
16	Chiru
17	Chothe
18	Darlong
19	Darma
20	Dhimal
21	Didayi
22	Dirang Monpa
23	Eravallan
24	Gahri
25	Gojapuri
26	Gutob Gadaba
27	Gutob-Gadaba
28	Hakkipikki
29	Hassadi
30	Holiya

31	Jad
32	Jenu Kuruba
33	Juang
34	Khamba
35	Khamiyang
36	Khana
37	Khash
38	Kudiya
39	Kui
40	Lamkang
41	Luro
42	Malasar
43	Malayan
44	Manda
45	Meshabi
46	Moyon
47	Muduga
48	Nancowry
49	Newari
50	Paddari
51	Palliyar
52	Parenga
53	Purum
54	Ranglong
55	Rongpo
56	Saihriem
57	Sanenyo
58	Sherdukpen
59	Shina
60	Siddi
61	Simong
62	Singhpo
63	Siram
64	Soliga
65	Sora
66	Spiti

67	Tai Phake
68	Tangkhul
69	Thachanadan Moopan
70	Tharua
71	Thoti
72	Toda
73	Toto
74	Uchoi
75	Urali
76	Yimkhiung

Annexure III

List of CIIL-NCERT Indian language primers (Language wise)

Date: Nov 12, 2025

SN	Primer name	SN	Language name	ISBN
1.	Adi Primer	1.	Adi	978-81-19411-41-2
2.	Anal Primer	2.	Anal	978-81-970852-4-6
3.	Angami Primer	3.	Angami	978-81-19411-37-5
4.	Ao Primer	4.	Ao	978-81-19411-22-1
5.	Assamese Primer	5.	Assamese	978-81-19411-72-6
6.	Balti Primer	6.	Balti	978-81-973948-9-8
7.	Bengali Primer	7.	Bengali	978-81-970852-9-1
8.	Bhili (Vasava) Primer	8.	Bhili (Vasava)	978-81-970769-4-7
9.	Bhili (Wagdi) Primer	8.	Bhili (Wagdi)	978-81-977586-3-8
10.	Bhumij Primer	9.	Bhumij	978-81-977442-6-6
11.	Bhutia Primer	10.	Bhutia	978-81-19411-17-7
12.	Bishnupriya Manipuri Primer	11.	Bishnupriya Manipuri	978-81-19411-59-7
13.	Bodo Primer	12.	Bodo	978-81-19411-97-9
14.	Chang Primer	13.	Chang	978-81-972541-9-2
15.	Chokri Primer	14.	Chokri	978-81-971148-1-6
16.	Deori Primer	15.	Deori	978-81-19411-44-3
17.	Dimasa Primer	16.	Dimasa	978-81-19411-77-1
18.	Dogri Primer	17.	Dogri	978-81-970852-1-5
19.	Gadaba (Gutob) Primer	18.	Gadaba (Gutob)	978-81-19411-47-4
20.	Gangte Primer (Not Published)	19.	Gangte	978-81-973948-6-7
21.	Garo Primer	20.	Garo	978-81-970769-6-1
22.	Gondi-Odia Primer	21.	Gondi	978-81-977442-7-3
23.	Gondi-Telugu Primer	21.	Gondi	978-81-977442-4-2
24.	Gujarati Primer	22.	Gujarati	978-81-970852-5-3
25.	Halabi (Halbi) Primer	23.	Halabi (Halbi)	978-81-19411-51-1
26.	Halam Primer	24.	Halam	978-81-971106-7-2
27.	Hindi Primer	25.	Hindi	978-81-970852-0-8
28.	Hmar Primer	26.	Hmar	978-81-19411-25-2
29.	Ho-Hindi Primer	27.	Ho	978-81-977442-0-4
30.	Ho-Odia Primer	27.	Ho	978-81-973948-8-1
31.	Idu Mishmi Primer	28.	Idu Mishmi	978-81-19411-66-5
32.	Jatapu (Kuvi) Primer	29.	Jatapu (Kuvi)	978-81-19411-27-6
33.	Juang Primer	30.	Juang	978-81-19411-57-3
34.	Kabui (Rongmei) Primer	31.	Kabui (Rongmei)	978-81-19411-42-9
35.	Kandha (Khond) Primer	32.	Kandha (Khond)	978-81-977586-5-2
36.	Kannada Primer	33.	Kannada	978-81-970852-6-0

37.	Karbi Primer	34.	Karbi	978-81-19411-67-2
38.	Kashmiri (Devanagari) Primer	35.	Kashmiri	978-81-970852-3-9
39.	Kashmiri (Perso-Arabic) Primer	35.	Kashmiri	978-81-977586-0-7
40.	Khandeshi Primer	36.	Khandeshi	978-81-19411-86-3
41.	Kharia Primer	37.	Kharia	978-81-19411-30-6
42.	Khasi Primer	38.	Khasi	978-81-971148-9-2
43.	Khiamniungan Primer	39.	Khiamniungan	978-81-972541-4-7
44.	Kinnauri Primer	40.	Kinnauri	978-81-19411-75-7
45.	Kisan (Kunhu) Primer	41.	Kisan (Kunhu)	978-81-19411-52-8
46.	Koch Primer	42.	Koch	978-81-19411-40-5
47.	Koda (Kora) Primer	43.	Koda (Kora)	978-81-977442-1-1
48.	Kodava Primer	44.	Kodava	978-81-19411-83-2
49.	Kokborok Primer (B) (Not Published)	45.	Kokborok	978-81-971148-4-7
50.	Kokborok Primer (R) (Not Published)	45.	Kokborok	978-81-19411-45-0
51.	Kolami Primer	46.	Kolami	978-81-970769-0-9
52.	Kolami-Telugu Primer	46.	Kolami	978-81-977442-5-9
53.	Kom Primer	47.	Kom	978-81-971148-7-8
54.	Konda Primer	48.	Konda	978-81-19411-79-5
55.	Konkani Primer	49.	Konkani	978-81-970852-2-2
56.	Konyak Primer	50.	Konyak	978-81-972541-1-6
57.	Korku Primer	51.	Korku	978-81-970769-9-2

58.	Korwa Primer	52.	Korwa	978-81-970769-8-5
59.	Koya Primer	53.	Koya	978-81-19411-65-8
60.	Kui Primer	54.	Kui	978-81-19411-93-1
61.	Kuki Primer	55.	Kuki	978-81-970769-3-0
62.	Kurukh Primer	56.	Kurukh	978-81-19411-49-8
63.	Kuzhale (Khezha) Primer	57.	Kuzhale (Khezha)	978-81-19411-73-3
64.	Ladakhi Primer	58.	Ladakhi	978-81-973948-4-3
65.	Lahauli (Pattani) Primer	59.	Lahauli (Pattani)	978-81-977442-2-8
66.	Lai (Pawi) Primer	60.	Lai (Pawi)	978-81-972541-0-9
67.	Lepcha Primer	61.	Lepcha	978-81-19411-60-3
68.	Liangmai Primer	62.	Liangmai	978-81-19411-46-7
69.	Limbu Primer	63.	Limbu	978-81-19411-94-8
70.	Lotha Primer	64.	Lotha	978-81-19411-50-4
71.	Maithili Primer	65.	Maithili	978-81-971106-5-8
72.	Malayalam Primer	66.	Malayalam	978-81-971106-2-7
73.	Malto Primer	67.	Malto	978-81-977586-4-5
74.	Manipuri Primer	68.	Manipuri	978-81-19411-24-5
75.	Mao Primer	69.	Mao	978-81-19411-18-4
76.	Mara (Lakher) Primer	70.	Mara (Lakher)	978-81-972541-6-1
77.	Maram Primer	71.	Maram	978-81-971148-0-9

78.	Marathi Primer	72.	Marathi	978-81-971106-1-0
79.	Maring Primer	73.	Maring	978-81-971148-5-4
80.	Mising Primer	74.	Mising	978-81-19411-68-9
81.	Mizo Primer	75.	Mizo	978-81-19411-70-2
82.	Mogh Primer	76.	Mogh	978-81-19411-71-9
83.	Monpa Primer	77.	Monpa	978-81-971148-8-5
84.	Munda Primer	78.	Munda	978-81-977586-9-0
85.	Mundari Primer	79.	Mundari	978-81-19411-80-1
86.	Nepali Primer	80.	Nepali	978-81-19411-82-5
87.	Nicobarese: Car Nicobarese (Pū) Primer	81.	Nicobarese	978-81-977586-1-4
88.	Nicobarese: Nancowry (Mūöt) Primer	81.	Nicobarese	978-81-977586-7-6
89.	Nocte Primer	82.	Nocte	978-81-971148-3-0
90.	Nyishi Primer	83.	Nyishi	978-81-19411-85-6
91.	Odia Primer	84.	Odia	978-81-971106-6-5
92.	Paite Primer (Not Published)	85.	Paite	978-81-973948-0-5
93.	Parji (Durua) Primer	86.	Parji (Durua)	978-81-977586-8-3
94.	Pashto Primer	87.	Pashto	978-81-973948-1-2
95.	Phom primer	88.	Phom	978-81-971148-2-3
96.	Pochury Primer	89.	Pochury	978-81-972541-8-5
97.	Punjabi Primer	90.	Punjabi	978-81-971106-8-9
98.	Rabha Primer	91.	Rabha	978-81-19411-23-8
99.	Rai Primer	92.	Rai	978-81-19411-29-0
100.	Rengma Primer	93.	Rengma	978-81-972541-3-0
101.	Sangtam Primer	94.	Sangtam	978-81-972541-2-3
102.	Sanskrit Primer	95.	Sanskrit	978-81-970852-7-7
103.	Santali-Bengali Primer	96.	Santali	978-81-970769-5-4
104.	Santali-Hindi Primer	96.	Santali	978-81-970852-8-4
105.	Santali-Odia Primer	96.	Santali	978-81-970769-1-6
106.	Savara (Sora) Primer	97.	Savara (Sora)	978-81-19411-81-8
107.	Sherpa Primer	98.	Sherpa	978-81-19411-39-9
108.	Shina Primer	99.	Shina	978-81-973948-7-4
109.	Sindhi (Devanagari) Primer	100.	Sindhi	978-81-971106-9-6
110.	Sindhi (Perso-Arabic) Primer	100.	Sindhi	978-81-971106-4-1
111.	Sümi (Sema) Primer	101.	Sümi (Sema)	978-81-19411-69-6
112.	Tamang Primer	102.	Tamang	978-81-19411-36-8
113.	Tamil Primer	103.	Tamil	978-81-971106-3-4
114.	Tangkhul Primer	104.	Tangkhul	978-81-19411-61-0
115.	Tangsa Primer	105.	Tangsa	978-81-970769-7-8
116.	Telugu Primer	106.	Telugu	978-81-971106-0-3
117.	Thadou-Kuki Primer (Not Published)	107.	Thadou-Kuki	978-81-972541-7-8
118.	Tibetan Primer	108.	Tibetan	978-81-973948-3-6
119.	Tiwa (Lalung) Primer	109.	Tiwa	978-81-19411-63-4

120.	Tulu Primer	110.	Tulu	978-81-19411-21-4
121.	Urdu Primer	111.	Urdu	978-81-970769-2-3
122.	Vaiphei Primer (Not Published)	112.	Vaiphei	978-81-973948-5-0
123.	Wancho Primer	113.	Wancho	978-81-19411-15-3
124.	Yimkhiung Primer	114.	Yimkhiung	978-81-971148-6-1
125.	Zeme Primer	115.	Zeme	978-81-972541-5-4
126.	Zeme-Manipuri Primer	115,	Zeme	
127.	Zou Primer (Not Published)	116.	Zou	978-81-973948-2-9

* 127 CIIL-NCERT Primers for 116 Indian languages.

** 119 primers for 110 Indian languages published and released.

*** 7 primers for 6 Indian languages developed but not published and released.

**** *Zeme-Manipuri Primer* is going to be developed in a workshop from Nov 17 to 22, 2025 at CIIL, Mysuru.
