

- (e) whether any such census was held between 1971 and 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) As per the information provided by the Registrar General, India (RGI), it does not conduct Census of languages. However, it conducts decennial population Census in which data on mother tongues/ languages are also collected. The data collected at Census is respondent based. In Census 1961, name of all mother tongue returns were published irrespective of the number of speakers. As such there were 1652 mother tongues of which 208 were returned by 10,000 or more speakers. Since Census 1971, in accordance with the decisions of the Government of India, names of the mother tongues returned by 10,000 or more speakers at the all India level have only been published. The number of mother tongues with 10,000 or more speakers in different Decennial Censuses from 1971 are 132, 112, 216 and 234 respectively.

Indo-US partnership in the development of higher studies

3018. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is entering into a bilateral relationship with United States of America for cooperation in higher studies and coming up with Connect India Programme; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and the United States of America have committed to enhance cooperation in the area of higher education. During the second India-US Higher Education Dialogue, India has proposed to launch a 'Connect to India' initiative that will make available opportunities for the American students to study in India. This would enable the students from United States of America to spend some time in Indian Institutions for short duration to learn about life, society, culture, economy, polity, business and other important facets of Indian life.

Level of education attained by students

3019. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: