

(c) by which academic year this decision would come into force and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Protection of languages

2011. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many languages are prevalent in India, spoken in different region by various community, sects and tribes etc. and how many have their own script;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of such languages have already come extinct or on the verge of extinction during the last fifty years, if so, which are those languages and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to protect these languages along with the culture and traditions interlinked with such languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Although there are 22 major languages listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India, as per Census of India, there is a list of another 100 languages which are spoken by more than 10,000 speakers. Some academicians have placed the number of Indian languages to be around 1000. Most of these, however, do not have a writing tradition or a script. There is no official record of languages of India that have become extinct in the last 50 years.

The Government of India has initiated a scheme known as “Scheme for the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)” in 2013. Under the 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 10000 people. In the first phase of the scheme, 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis. In total, 520 languages/dialects/mother tongue are planned to be documented under this project. The University Grants Commission has also initiated two schemes for State and Central Universities for protection of endangered languages. Under the scheme “Funding support to the State Universities for study and research in indigenous and endangered languages in India”, seven State

universities have been approved and an amount of ₹ 4.2 crores was released for the purpose. Under the scheme “Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages in Central Universities”, nine Central Universities have been approved and an amount of ₹ 16.85 crores released to eight of these Universities.

Development of life skills and attitude in students

2012. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the existing education system does not provide for development of life skills and attitudes in students and is only concerned with high percentage of marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to tackle this issue; and

(d) the suggestions of the public, NGOs and experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The education system is guided by the National Policy on Education while providing for development of life skills. The National Policy on Education (NPE) emphasised the need for giving life skills through introduction of systematic, well planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education in the proposed educational reorganisation. These elements are meant to develop a healthy attitude amongst students towards work and life, to enhance individual employability, to reduce the mismatch between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, and to provide an alternative for those intending to pursue higher education without particular interest or purpose. The NPE1986 stated that efforts will be made to devise vocational courses based on Agriculture, Marketing, Social Services, etc. Further, an emphasis in vocational education will also be on development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment. Efforts were made for implementing the same in the educational system with varying degrees of success.

(c) and (d) Currently, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to Quality Education, Innovation and Research, aiming to make India a Knowledge Superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in Science, Technology,