

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 184

TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2021

Preservation of indigenous languages

184. Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to document and preserve indigenous languages such as Birhor, Aka, Dimasa, etc. which are spoken orally but are on the verge of extinction; and
- (b) Whether Government is considering the request of setting up a national-level language conservation project to conserve such indigenous languages?

MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(G.KISHAN REDDY)

ANSWER

- (a) Sir, Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, has taken steps in this direction by establishing Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature for development of indigenous languages. The Akademi has published several books focusing on various aspects of tribal life and culture such as books on Growth and Development of Khasi and Garo Languages, Garwali Lok Geet, Saora Folk Tales and Songs among others. The Akademi also promotes indigenous languages by organising programmes and seminars such as Tribal (Munda) Poets' Meet featuring Mundari Poetry Recitations and Tribal (Banjara) Poets' Meet featuring Gorboli Poetry Readings etc.

Apart from above, Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), another autonomous body under Ministry of Culture, is taking steps to promote and integrate the learning of various Indian languages by providing scholarships in the field of Creative Writing under Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme (CTSSS). Scholarships are provided to those children who are learning or getting trained under any guru / institution for the last 3 years and have an aptitude for writing in the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution as well as Regional and Indigenous languages of the various Tribal /Folk/ Indigenous communities.

Further, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), under the Department of Higher Education, Government of India, works for the promotion of all Indian languages including Birhor, Aka and Dimasa by taking steps towards documentation, promotion and preservation of the indigenous languages of India. Government of India in the Department of Higher Education has initiated a Scheme known as "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' (SPPEL). Under this scheme, the CIIL, Mysore works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India which are spoken by less than 10,000 people. Bharatavani Project of the Ministry of Education promotes the languages by way of digitizing existing content in the language and making them available for free public use in the portal.

- (b) Currently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.
