

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3844  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

**Extinct and endangered Indian languages**

**3844 Shri Prasanna Acharya:**

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

- (a) how many Indian languages have already been extinct and how many have been listed as endangered language, the details thereof;
- (b) how many languages in Odisha have already been extinct and the reasons therefor, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to save the languages which are on the verge of extinction and the result thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)**

(a) to (c) : The National Education Policy, 2020 focuses on promotion of all Indian Languages including endangered languages. The Government of India runs a Scheme known as "Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India" (SPPEL). Under this 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 10,000 people which are called endangered languages. 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis by CIIL.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) also runs two schemes for protection of endangered languages, namely 'Funding Support to the State Universities for Study and Research in Indigenous and Endangered languages in India' and 'Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages in Central Universities'. There is no centralized data in respect of languages which have become extinct.

\*\*\*\*