

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3854
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

Preservation of endangered languages

3854 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- a) the languages from Odisha that has been identified for Phase II of Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India (SPPEL); and
- b) the amount of funds sanctioned to State Universities in Odisha to undertake the preservation of identified languages during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : 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. Bhunjia, Bodo Gadaba/Gutob, Bondo, Gorum, Manda, Binjhia/Birjia/Brinjia, Borhor, Tharua are some of the languages from Odisha included in the first phase of SPPEL project. Phase II of SPPEL has not yet been finalized.

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'. UGC has provided an amount of Rs.1.30 crore to Berhampur University, Odisha during last five years under the scheme of study and research in indigenous and endangered languages of India.
