

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3870
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
TRIBAL LANGUAGES
Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tribal dialects (languages) in the country, State-wise and tribe-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to protect the deterioration of tribal languages?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has stated that 89 languages are considered to be tribal languages as per Census of India 1991. Statement showing tribal languages spoken State-wise as per Census of India, 1991 is given in Annexure I.

(b) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore is concerned with the development of all Indian languages and has brought out publications on many tribal languages. Most of the current research work relates to description of these languages and production of pedagogical materials. Besides, this Ministry, under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Research & Training: Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)', provides funds to the TRIs in the States for conducting research on different aspects of tribal life which could include tribal languages.