

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:877
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
LANGUAGES OF TRIBES
Oraon Dr. Rameshwar

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tribes having their own languages;
- (b) the total number of those languages having their own scripts; (
- (c) whether these languages are being taught at matric, graduate and post- graduate levels;
- (d) if so, the name of the languages along with tribals speaking them;
- (e) whether any scheme being implemented for promoting these languages by the Union Government;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any tribal language is included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution;
- (h) if so, whether the Kurukh is being spoken by one crore Scheduled Tribe population of Oraon;
- (i) if so, whether the Government proposes to include the Kurukh language in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution; and (j) if so, the time by when?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the 1991 Census, 89 out of 114 classified languages may be regarded as tribal languages. A statement is enclosed at Annexure-I. Out of these 89 tribal languages, 37 languages have established writing systems and are used in schools.

34 others are in early writing stages but there is no information about their use in schools. There is no information of writing practices in 18 languages.

(c) & (d): 10 tribal languages are taught upto M.A. level – Angami (Tenyidie in Nagaland), Bodo (Assam), Khasi and Garo (Meghalaya), Mizo (Mizoram) and Santhali, Mundari, Kharia, Ho and Kurukh in Ranchi University, Jharkhand. Kokborok is also taught as a certificate course open only for graduates in Tripura University. Besides the above 11, Ao, Sema and Lotha in Nagaland are taught up to 10th standard. Hmar in Manipur and Assam is taught at college level. Paite, Thadou – Kuki and Zou are also taught at matric level in Manipur.

(e) & (f): Yes. Santhali and Bodo are being taught by the Regional Language Centres of Central Institute of Indian Languages under the scheme of three language formula. Besides, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 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.

(g): Santhali and Bodo are the two tribal languages included in the 8th Schedule.

(h): As per 1991 Census, the population of Kurukh speakers of the Oraon tribe is known to be 14, 26,618.

(i) & (j): Does not arise.