

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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**PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEET OF MINISTRY OF  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT HELD: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL UNDERLINES  
NEED TO STEP UP MONEY AND EFFORT FOR PRESERVING AND  
POPULARISING ENDANGERED AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES**

**New Delhi: November 18, 2011**

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal has expressed his concern that the Budget allocated for development, protection and preservation of endangered and classical languages is not adequate for the purpose. He was speaking at the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Human Resource Development held here last evening. The subject of the meeting was “Development of Indian Languages, Protection & Preservation of Endangered Languages and Classical Languages.” The Minister underlined the need for strengthening the institutions that are working towards protecting and popularizing these languages. He also informed the Members that the Ministry has set up a round table of experts /educationists on this subject so that academic institutions can be involved to a greater extent in language development.

The Members of Parliament expressed their views on various issues in this regard. Some Members stated that the Sanskritisation of Hindi will limit its ability to become a link language. Thus the effort should be towards making Hindi simpler rather than more Sanskritised. An MP gave a suggestion that besides the three language formula, students could be encouraged to study a fourth local minor language and be encouraged with scholarships for the same. Some MPs also pointed out that the institutional arrangement for Urdu protection and popularization is not adequate and much more needs to be done. They also said that Urdu needs to be linked with employment and efforts could be made to impart technical education in Urdu.

A presentation was made to the Committee on the institutional arrangement and other efforts being undertaken by the Ministry of HRD for preserving and popularizing traditional and endangered languages. Besides detailing the various institutions the Members of Parliament were also informed of the National Translation Mission (NTM), which is a government of India initiative set up in June 2008 under the Central Institute of Indian Languages ( CIIL) to make

knowledge based texts accessible in all Indian languages listed in the VIII schedule of the Constitution through translation.

Post independence, there has been an increasing emphasis on education in the mother tongue in India. While it has been possible to implement this policy at school level, most of the knowledge texts and prescribed books used in colleges and universities are available mostly in English. English, however, remains inaccessible to even the literate majority of the country and therefore there is an urgent need to translate material in all fields-literary, technical, scientific, business so that such material is accessible to a wide range of population across the country speaking different languages. This challenge is being addressed by the National Translation Mission.

Information about 29,000 translations is already available in the database that NTM has developed and information on another 70,000 titles is expected to be digitized by March 2012. A National Register of Translators with information about over 4,5000 translators and experts is available on the NTM website. Translators can also register online on this Register.

NTM is engaged in producing tools like bilingual dictionaries. In some cases, NTM is collaborating with government and private agencies for:

- Basic Dictionaries
- E-Dictionaries
- Glossaries and Technical Terminology
- An English – Kannada Machine Translation Package which is being redeveloped by the NTM team.

NTM has conducted more than 10 Orientation Programs across the country where about 500 students, teachers and other interested people received training. NTM has also conducted 7 National Seminars in universities and academic institutions where issues related to translation were discussed and papers were presented.

The meeting was attended by S/Shri Ganeshrao Nagorao Dudhgaonkar, Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Prem Das Rai, Smt. Rama Devi and Dr. Ranjan Prasad Yadav from Lok Sabha and S/Shri Ishwar Singh, Mohammed Shafi, G.N. Ratanpuri and Derek O' Brien from Rajya Sabha. Also present were Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Smt. Vibha Puri Das and Secretary Department of School Education and Literacy Smt. Anshu Vaish, besides other senior officials of the HRD Ministry.

MV/GK