

## **Maharashtra**

It is well established that children learn best in their mother tongue. In Maharashtra, over 9% of people belong to tribal communities and people from other communities/regions speak in their own dialect. There are a total of 60 dialects in Maharashtra of which 16 are Tribal languages.

In 2015-16, to help teachers in government Schools to Bridge the language gap with students, the state undertook the development of supplementary reading material (Bhiloni, Pawari, Katkari, Aandh, Kolami, Gondi, Pardhani, Korku, Mavachi, Nahali). The translated titles were printed and distributed in schools where relevant dialect speaking children are present. An amount of Rs. 35 Lakh was sanctioned for seven districts (Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Amaravati, Nandurbar, Dhule). MSCERT, in collaboration with Tata Trusts and QUEST, also organized a two-day workshop on “Teaching Learning in Multilingual Classrooms” which will be useful for all 60 dialects.

PAB has pointed out that the development of supplementary reading material in 10 tribal languages would help children who have a home language different from the medium of instruction at school. Apart from provisioning of supplementary reading material State should develop a structured intervention in schools where majority (more than 60%) children have a home language different from the medium of instruction

In 2016-17 a guidebook for teachers will be prepared by state to help them use dialects in tandem with Marathi to transition students from mother tongue/dialect into Marathi. The development of this guidebook will help teachers in handling students who speak any of the 60 dialects. In addition, bilingual learning materials will be developed in dialects that were not covered in 2015-16 i.e. Kokana, Thakari, Dhorkoli, Mathwadi, MalharKoli, Mawachi, Mangeli, Rathya (Barela) and Halabi. Besides this, 10 additional titles will also be created. The State also plans to organize sessions for development of insight among teachers in tribal districts about pedagogy and approach of language teaching.