

an>

Title: Regarding release of funds for the promotion of Odia language

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Despite the Union Government conferring classical language status to Odia in 2014, nothing substantial appears to have been achieved in the past 8 years. Odia is the first language from the Indo Aryan linguistic group. The oldest known work in Odia dates back to the 1st century BC, predating the literature of most modern languages by at least 1000 years. Acknowledging this, the Union Cabinet gave its nod for classifying Odia, the official language of Odisha, as a classical language to give impetus to scholarships in the language.

Once a language is declared as a classical language, it gets financial assistance for setting up a centre for excellence for the study of the language

Although, the government sanctioned Rs. 300 crore for promotion of Classical languages in the country but only a total amount of Rs 29 crore has been spent on the five classical Indian languages – Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia which is too meagre to carry out the task of promoting a classical language. Odia and its rich ancient heritage being one of the primary independent sources of modern Indian culture and tradition, I request the Government to urgently release the funds for the promotion of Odia language and its scholarships.