

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1708  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012  
PROMOTION OF SANSKRIT LANGUAGE  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme for promotion of Sanskrit language in the country and abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether UNESCO is assisting in promotion of the Sanskrit language; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b). The Government of India is promoting Sanskrit Language through its three Deemed Universities, viz. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha (SLBSRSV), New Delhi, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha (RSV), Tirupati and through an autonomous organization, Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan (MSRVVP), Ujjain. RSkS and MSRVVP are directly funded by Government of India whereas SLBSRSV and RSV are funded by the UGC. Besides UGC also provides funds for teaching and research in Sanskrit to 4 State Universities and 59 Colleges. RSkS is implementing special schemes for promotion of Sanskrit in the country, which include financial assistance to Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidhyalays/Shodh Sansthans, Shastra Chudamani Scheme, Financial Assistance to Sanskrit teachers, Financial Assistance to NGOs for promotion of Sanskrit, assistance to Sanskrit Scholars in indigent circumstances, award of scholarships to students of Sanskrit, publication of books in Sanskrit etc. Besides, there is also a Scheme for Presidential Award of Certificate of Honour to Sanskrit Scholars. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman has also been introduced from the year 2002 for young scholars between the age group of 30-40 years. From the year 2008, the scheme was further extended to cover one international award for NRI or foreigner for their lifetime achievement in the field of Sanskrit.

(c) & (d) UNESCO does not have any activities planned specifically to promote the Sanskrit language. However, within the framework of UNESCO's Cultural mandate, various activities related to the Sanskrit language have been undertaken. A brief of some of the activities with the support of UNESCO that has led to the promotion of the Sanskrit language is as under:-

i. Under the UNESCO Catalogue of Representative Works a number of books have been registered which are translated from Sanskrit into other languages.

ii. Under UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity which is made up of those intangible heritage practices and expressions, 'Kutiyattam' -a form of Sanskrit theatre is listed. It was inscribed in 2008, and UNESCO encourages the State Party to continue safeguarding this intangible cultural heritage.