

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1274
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013
CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the languages which have been recognised as classical languages by the Government;
- (b) whether the requests received from various States and other Government Departments regarding declaration of various languages as classical languages have been cleared by the Committee of Linguistic Experts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which all such requests are likely to be cleared;
- (d) whether the Government provides funds for the development of classical languages in the country; and
- (e) if so, the total funds sanctioned and released by the Government for the promotion and development of each classical language during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT wise and institution-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) The Government had given classical status to Tamil and Sanskrit in the year 2004 and 2005 respectively. Later, a Linguistic Experts' Committee was constituted, based on whose recommendation, the Government has recognized Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam as classical languages. Order for Malayalam, is under issue.
- (b) & (c) The Linguistic Experts' Committee has, till now, resolved to declare Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia as classical languages on the basis of criteria laid down for the purpose. Orders declaring Kannada and Telugu as classical languages have been issued and that for Malayalam is under issue. Action is being taken for seeking approval of the Cabinet for declaring Odia as a classical language.
- (d) & (e) These questions pertain to Ministry of Human Resource Development and the reply is being collected from them.