

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3818  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS TO TULU  
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**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant classical language status to Tulu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the criteria adopted for declaration of a language as a classical language ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) No, Madam. Ministry of Culture has not received any proposal for the grant of classical language status to Tulu.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The criteria for declaring language as a classical language is as under :
  - (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
  - (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
  - (iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
  - (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.