

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYASABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

1144 SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government recognizes Tamil language as the oldest classical language in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the list of such classical languages in the country;
- (c) whether Government provides funds for protection and promotion of classical languages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise and language wise, including Tamil language; and
- (e) steps taken by Government for promotion of Tamil as classical language?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Government has recognized the following 11 languages as Classical Language:

Language	Year of Notification
Tamil	2004
Sanskrit	2005
Telugu	2008
Kannada	
Malayalam	2013
Odia	2014
Marathi	2024
Pali	
Prakrit	
Assamese	
Bengali	

(c) & (d) The Government of India through the Ministry of Education provides funds for protection and promotion of classical languages. The details of the funds released for classical languages may be found at **Annexure-I**.

(e) Government of India has established a institute namely Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai for development and promotion of Tamil language. CICT conducts seminars, workshops, short term projects and translation of Tirukkural into India/ Foreign Languages. CICT has made braille conversion of 41 Classical texts enabling visually challenged to experience ancient Tamil literature. In collaboration with NCERT, CICT has also launched PM-e vidya Tamil channel for promotion of Tamil Language

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) and (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1144 for an 05.12.2024

**YEAR-WISE AND LANGUAGE WISE FUNDS TO THE CLASSICAL LANGAUGE
(Rs. In Lakhs)**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Kannada	127.50	106.50	171.75	154.50	83.50
Telugu	147.00	103.15	171.75	154.50	83.50
Malayalam	8.00	63.97	186.75	112.50	83.50
Tamil	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	1525.00	1430.00
Odia	8.00	58.38	176.75	138.50	83.50

The Government of India promotes Sanskrit Language through three Central Universities. Funds are provided to these universities for teaching and research in Sanskrit Language leading to award of degree, diploma, certificate to students.

As for Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, these languages were recognized as Classical Languages vide Gazette Notification dated 04.10.2024.