

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1942
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

1942. DR. SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to conserve and promote the classical languages and to preserve the rich heritage of these languages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any proposal for the inclusion of any other Indian language?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) & (b) The Government of India promotes all Indian languages including Classical languages. The National Education Policy, 2020 mandates promotion of multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. NEP provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language/ regional language up to at least class 5 and preferably up to class 8. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works for the promotion of Indian languages including classical languages viz. Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia. Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Telugu language is functioning at Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) while Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada language is functioning at Mysore. Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia Language is at Bhubaneswar while Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Malayalam Language is functioning from Tirur, Mallapuram (Kerala). Development and promotion of Classical Tamil is done by Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. The Government of India is promoting Sanskrit Language through three Central Universities, viz Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati.
- (c) Recognition of languages as Classical languages is a continuous process.
