

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3714

TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

**BENEFITS FOR BENGALI AS A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE**

**3714 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHAYA:**

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) specific benefits that Bengali will receive after its recent designation as a Classical Language, including financial support, research grants and academic initiatives;
- (b) whether Government plans to establish a Centre of Excellence for Studies in Bengali, similar to other Classical Languages and if so, the timeline and location for its setup;
- (c) status of implementation of benefits for Bengali under the Classical Language framework, including the creation of professional chairs in central universities and research institutions; and
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry plans to promote research, documentation and scholarly activities related to Bengali language and budgetary provisions made for these initiatives?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d) The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages including classical language as per the National Education Policy, 2020 mandate for 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 upto at least class 5 and preferably upto class 8.

The Government notified five classical languages such as Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali as Classical Languages, recently. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works for the promotion of Indian languages including classical languages. Bengali language in CIIL is promoted through Linguistic Data Consortium of Indian Languages (LDC-IL), National Testing Services (NTS), Bharatavani Project and National Translation Mission (NTM). Eastern Regional Language Centre (ERLC) at Bhubaneswar is offering ten-month diploma course in Bengali language

The support available to the languages notified as Classical Languages includes awards in classical languages, centre of excellence for studies in classical languages and creation of professional chairs in central universities. Funds are provided for teaching and research in classical languages and for its promotion.

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