

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

296: SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had declared Malayalam as classical language and has allotted financial assistance to the State of Kerala for upliftment of Malayalam language and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to give financial support to the State of Kerala for further development of the classical language Malayalam; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with financial support given to the State Governments for development of classical languages during the years 2016-17 and 2017-18?

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

- (a): Malayalam has been declared as a classical language by the Government on 8th August, 2013. The following benefits are provided to classical languages:
- (i) Two major annual international awards for scholar of eminence in that Classical Language
 - (ii) Opening of a certain number of Professional Chairs, to start with at least in the Central Universities.
 - (iii) A Centre of Excellence of Studies in classical languages to be set up.

As regards Item No. (i) above, a decision was taken to confer these awards from the year 2016. A Selection Committee constituted for the purpose has given its recommendations and the recommendations are under process. As regards item No. (ii), UGC was requested to open the Professional Chairs, and UGC in its meeting dated 4.2.2016 approved the proposal. As regards Item No. (iii), in 2014, the then Chief Minister of Kerala requested the then Minister of Human Resource Development to open the Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. The then Minister of Human Resource Development requested them to allot suitable land for the purpose. Thus, the matter is taken up in consultation with State Government of Kerala.

There is no provision to allocate funds to the State Governments for the development of a classical language. The development works on these classical languages are usually carried by constituting a Centre (as in (iii) above) under the Central Government. After constitution of such a Centre, the funds are allocated to them.

(b) & (c): Under the above Scheme, no funds are allocated to State Governments.
