

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5700
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018**

CLASSICAL STATUS OF MARATHI LANGUAGE

5700: DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal to grant Classical Status to Marathi Language is under consideration of the Government since long;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a revised proposal last year to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said proposal of granting Classical Status to Marathi Language will be considered?

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE &
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A proposal for granting classical status to Marathi Language was received from Marathi Language Department, Government of Maharashtra. The said proposal was placed before the Committee of Linguistic Experts for its consideration. The said Committee recommended the grant of classical status to Marathi language. However, in the light of several Writ Petitions filed by Shri R. Gandhi in the High Court of Judicature at Madras on the subject, it was decided to wait for the outcome of the said Writ Petitions. The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras has disposed off the Writ Petitions vide common order dated 08.08.2016 declining to interfere in the matter and disposed off all the petitions. Consequently, the revised proposal for grant of classical status to Marathi language is under consideration of this Ministry.
- (c) & (d): No, Madam.
- (e): No time-frame for granting Classical Status to Marathi Language can be fixed.
