

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1108  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021**

**STATUS OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGE TO MARATHI**

**†1108. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:  
SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra for providing status of Classical Language to Marathi language has been sent to Expert Committee for their consideration;
- (b) if so, the date on which this proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra and the date on which was presented to the Language Expert Committee for their consideration and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report and if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the date on which this report was received by the Government;
- (d) the details of action taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Expert Committee; and
- (e) the time by which the Government proposes to give the status of classical language to Marathi language?

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM  
(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**ANSWER**

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The proposal from the Government of Maharashtra was received on 19.11.2013 and forwarded to Linguistic Experts Committee for its consideration on 14.03.2014.
- (c) & (d) The Committee of Linguistic Experts submitted its report on 06.02.2015. However, in the light of several Writ Petitions filed by Shri R. Gandhi in the Hon'ble 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 disposed of the Writ Petitions vide common order dated 08.08.2016 declining to interfere in the matter and disposed of all the Writ Petitions.

The Government nominated two more members i.e. Prof. Arun Diwaker Nath Bajpai (Former Vice Chancellor-Himachal University, Riva University) and Prof. Arunoday Saha (Former Vice Chancellor- Central University, Tripura) to the Linguistic Experts Committee in place of two vacancies caused by resignation of Dr. V.C. Kulandai Swamy and demise of Prof. Bh. Krishnamurti. It is the mandate of the Committee to review the criteria to classify a language as "Classical Language" and also to find out how many other languages are likely to become eligible to be classified as "Classical Language" under the reviewed guidelines.

- (e) No time frame can be decided to grant the Classical status to Marathi Language.