

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1124
ANSWERED ON - 02/12/2024

PROMOTION OF KANNADA AS CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

1124 Shri G Kumar Naik:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has met all requirements from the 2004 resolution for promoting Kannada as a classical language, specifically establishing a Centre of Excellence for Classical Kannada Studies, instituting two annual international awards for distinguished scholars in classical Kannada and creating academic chairs in Central Universities for Kannada studies;
- (b) if so, the details there and if not, the details of remaining projects and the time by which these are completed;
- (c) the details of the total funds allocated for promotion of classical language- Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Sanskrit and others during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (d) whether there is any disparities in allocation of funds, if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to grant greater autonomy to Kannada (similar to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil) to ensure effective use of funds and timely project completion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): The Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) was established in 2011 under Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru and works on research, promotion, publication of Classical Kannada. The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages including classical languages. CIIL works for the promotion of all Indian languages including four classical languages viz. Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia.

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. Funds are provided to these universities for teaching and research in Sanskrit Language leading to award of degree, diploma, certificate to students and no separate funds are provided for undertaking any work related to classical aspect of Sanskrit. University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a centre for classical language in Kannada in Central University of Karnataka and an amount of Rs.45.00 lakhs was provided for the centre during the year 2021-22. The details of funds provided for various classical languages by CIIL are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Kannada	106.50	171.75	154.50	83.50
Telugu	103.15	171.75	154.50	83.50
Malayalam	63.97	186.75	112.50	83.50
Tamil	1200.00	1200.00	1525.00	1430.00
Odia	58.38	176.75	138.50	83.50

(d) & (e): There is no disparity in the allocation of funds to these classical languages. However, funds are provided as per requirement and utilisation. At present, Government of India has constituted a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Padmashri Chamu Krishna Shastry to explore and recommend pathways for the holistic and multidisciplinary growth of Indian Languages as envisaged in the National Education Policy, 2020 including regional languages and classical languages. At present, there is no proposal to grant greater autonomy to classical Kannada language.
