

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS TO MARATHI LANGUAGE

2148. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

Will the Minister of Culture be please to state:

- (a) the name of the languages which enjoys the status of classical language;
- (b) whether any proposal have ever been received by the Government from the State of Maharashtra for granting of such status to Marathi language, if so, dates of such proposals along with action taken thereon;
- (c) the details of the criteria for granting of such status and the manner in which the Marathi language fulfilling that requirements; and
- (d) the details of the tentative period of time for granting the said status to Marathi language?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) The following languages have been declared as classical languages:

1. Assamese
2. Bengali
3. Kannada
4. Malayalam
5. Marathi
6. Odia
7. Pali
8. Prakrit
9. Sanskrit
10. Tamil
11. Telugu

(b to d) Several communications were received from the State Government of Maharashtra putting forward the proposal for recognition of Marathi Language as a classical language including one dated 21-02-2022. After thorough consideration based on laid down criteria, Marathi was officially declared as a Classical Language vide Notification dated October 4, 2024.

The criteria for granting status of classical language are as under:

- (i) High antiquity of its early texts / recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- (ii) A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- (iii) Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence would also be considered.
- (iv) The classical languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with its later forms or its offshoots.
