

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2370
ANSWERED ON - 15/12/2025

Promotion of Classical Languages

2370. Shri Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia :
Dr.Sharmila Sarkar :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount of funds spent on promotion of classical languages during the last eleven years, year and language-wise;
- (b) the details of the estimated number of people in India speaking each classical language, language-wise; and
- (c) the details of the top five most spoken languages in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages including classical languages. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru a subordinate office under Ministry of Education 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. Recently, Government of India has declared five new classical languages viz. Assamese, Marathi, Bengali, Pali and Prakrit. Funds are provided as per the requirement and utilisation. The details of funds allocated for various Classical Languages are given below:

| Year | Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs) | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | Odia | Malayalam |
| 2020-21 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| 2021-22 | 58.38 | 63.97 |
| 2022-23 | 176.75 | 186.75 |
| 2023-24 | 138.50 | 112.50 |
| 2024-25 | 86.00 | 86.00 |
| 2025-26 | 106.50 | 106.50 |

| Year | Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs) | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Kannada | Tamil | Telugu |
| 2014-15 | 100.00 | 800.00 | 100.00 |
| 2015-16 | 100.00 | 1199.00 | 100.00 |
| 2016-17 | 100.00 | 500.00 | 100.00 |
| 2017-18 | 100.00 | 1059.00 | 100.00 |
| 2018-19 | 99.00 | 465.00 | 99.00 |
| 2019-20 | 107.00 | 770.00 | 107.00 |
| 2020-21 | 127.50 | 1200.00 | 147.00 |
| 2021-22 | 106.50 | 1200.00 | 103.15 |
| 2022-23 | 171.75 | 1200.00 | 171.75 |
| 2023-24 | 154.50 | 1525.00 | 154.50 |
| 2024-25 | 86.00 | 1430.00 | 86.00 |
| 2025-26 | 106.50 | 1697.00 | 106.50 |

(b) : Estimated number of people speaking classical language as per census 2011 has been given below:

| Language | Total population |
|-----------|------------------|
| Assamese | 1,53,11,351 |
| Bengali | 9,72,37,669 |
| Kannada | 4,37,06,512 |
| Malayalam | 3,48,38,819 |
| Marathi | 8,30,26,680 |
| Odia | 3,75,21,324 |
| Sanskrit | 24,821 |
| Tamil | 6,90,26,881 |
| Telugu | 8,11,27,740 |

(c) : Hindi is the most spoken language in the country followed by Bengali, Marathi, Telugu and Tamil.
