

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1280
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.05.2016**

STATUS OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGE TO MARATHI

**1280. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:
SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:
SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of classical languages recognized by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria adopted by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for conferring the status of classical language to Marathi language;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any decision on the above proposal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the status of the proposal?

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

- (a)&(b): So far six languages i.e. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been granted classical status. The criteria for declaring a language as classical language is given 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 valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
 - (iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
 - (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- (c) : Yes, Madam.

(d)&(e): In view of pending writ petitions in the High Court of Madras, further action could not be taken.
