

[8 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Classical language status to Kannada

1521. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Indian languages are being accorded the 'Classical Language' status;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with criteria for identifying and conferring such a status on a language and the number of languages that have been so honoured;

(c) whether there is a demand from the State Government of Karnataka to confer 'Classical Language' status on Kannada Language;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A new category of languages as 'Classical Languages' was created by Government, and the following criteria were laid down to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as a 'Classical Language':—

- 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.

Only two languages viz. Tamil & Sanskrit have been declared as 'Classical language'.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Karnataka and several other organizations have represented to declare Kannada as a classical language.

(e) The requests were forwarded to the Sahitya Akademi for the consideration of the Committee of Linguistic Experts.

Heritage villages/towns in tourism map

1522. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare the birthplace of prominent freedom fighters and martyrs as heritage villages/towns to bring these on the tourism map;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of such villages/towns falling in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c)
At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Development of Bodhgaya in Bihar

1523. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a Master Plan for development of Bodhgaya in Bihar, an important destination in a Buddhist tourists itinerary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is also a hub of Buddhist tourism; and