

- (a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted requests for considering Malayalam as a classical language;
- (b) if so, what steps has been taken on it;
- (c) whether any other language is given the status, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what are the special benefits given to the status for developing/protecting classical languages?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request received from Government of Kerala for categorizing Malayalam as a Classical Language was referred to the Sahitya Akademi for being placed before the Committee of Linguistic Experts for their consideration. A meeting of this Committee was held in January, 2011. The members deliberated on the subject and suggested that the Committee of Linguistic Experts may be reconstituted and the matter referred to the reconstituted Committee. This suggestion was considered by the Government, and Sahitya Akademi has been asked to request the existing Committee of Linguistic Experts to consider the representation of Government of Kerala and furnish its findings and advice.

(c) Yes, Sir. So far, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu and Kannada languages have been categorized as Classical Language.

(d) As a matter of policy, the following benefits are available to the languages that are notified as classical languages:-

- (i) Two major international awards for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian languages are awarded annually.
- (ii) A 'Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages' is set up.
- (iii) The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian languages.

Digitisation of books at National Library

2357. SHRIN.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of articles from the rare book division of the National Library, Kolkata that have been lost or stolen in the last one decade;
- (b) whether the Ministry proposes to digitise all books at the National Library;
- (c) if so, the progress, budget and the time-frame of the digitisation project; and
- (d) other steps Government proposes to take to improve the functioning of the National Libraries across the country?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No article from the rare books division of the National Library has been reported to be lost or stolen in the last decade.

(b) Digitisation of rare books and other print material is done selectively taking into account copyright and other issues. It is a part of the Annual Action Plan of the National Library, Kolkata.

(c) Under the 3rd phase of digitisation project 20,00,000 pages *i.e.* 6000 books are envisaged to be digitised at a cost of about ₹ 35 lakhs in next seven months.

(d) The National Library has been accorded special status of an institution of national importance in the Article 62 in the Seventh Schedule of the Union List of the Constitution of India. There is no other National Library in the country. Recently, steps have been taken to improve the functioning of National Library, Kolkata. They include access to full text electronic journals, availability of library's catalogue on the web and high speed internet connectivity for the readers. Some new proposals are under consideration in the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Use of collection of statement and pictures of

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

†2358. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any collection has been made of statements and pictures of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose inscribed in the Indian National Army (INA) museum of Imphal;

(b) if so, whether any effort has been made to use certain parts of them in the Parliament complex and schools for inspiration of the students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government of Manipur have informed that about 200 photographs relating to Netaji and INA, some leaflets attributed to Netaji and some coins and currency are on display in Indian National Army (INA) Museum at Moirang.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Celebration of birth centenary of former President R. Venkataraman

2359. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has organized former President R. Venkataraman's yearlong birth centenary celebrations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.