

- (b) the reasons for each pending proposal; and
- (c) by when, the required amount would be released for pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (d) No proposals have been received in the Ministry from the village industries department of Chhattisgarh Government.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Declaration of Oriya as classical language

2654. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many language has been declared as classical language in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the criteria for declaring classical language has been changed after declaration of some of the languages as the classical language;
- (c) if so, the reason therefor and why this differential treatment to different language; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to declare Oriya language as the classical language considering Oriya as one of the oldest language which has origin before 200 B.C.?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Four languages namely, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu and Kannada have been declared as classical languages.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) The criteria were changed on the basis of the recommendation of the Linguistics Expert Committee.
- (d) There is no such proposal at present.

ASI employees working in Kashmir valley

2655. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: