

(a) what action has been taken by Government on the fact that artistes of 'Circus' are facing greater difficulties for survival in this era, as slowly the charm and attraction of Circus is going down due to TV and Cinema;

(b) whether Government intend to launch any special scheme for artistes of 'Circus'; and

(c) what action has been taken by Central Government in consultation with State Governments to provide life-line for the ancient Circus industry?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) There is no specific Scheme with the Government to assist the Circus artistes.

(b) There is no proposal for launch of any special scheme for them.

(c) Does not arise.

Classical language status for Malayalam

1269. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee of scholars was constituted by Government to study and present a considered opinion on the issue of giving the status of a Classical Language to Malayalam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, when it was submitted and its opinion and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Committee of Linguistic Experts to consider demands for categorization of languages as 'classical languages' *vide* Resolution No. 2-16/2004-US(Akademies) dated 1.11.2004, amended *vide* subsequent Resolutions dated 21.12.2004 and 1.04.2008.

(c) and (d) The Committee of Linguistic Experts examined the demand for conferring classical language status to Malayalam in its meetings held on 23.1.2012 and 05.03.12. The Committee observed that Malayalam does not qualify to be

categorized as a classical language on the ground that the criterion of high antiquity of Malayalam (being one of the set of criteria) could not be established. The matter has been referred again to the Committee for re-examination.

Restoration and preservation of old forts and monuments

1270. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the different schemes for the restoration and preservation of old forts and monuments in the country;
- (b) State-wise details of different forts and monuments being rebuilt during last three years;
- (c) how much amount is being allotted by the Ministry for building such endangered forts for the last three years;
- (d) whether Government plans to build tourism infrastructures along side the restoration process; and
- (e) if so, the details in terms of money spent in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) For conservation of protected monuments of ASI in the country including old forts, funds are made available under the scheme 'Conservation of Ancient Monuments'. In addition, limited financial assistance is provided for preservation of unprotected monuments, which are less than hundred years old under Grants-in-aid.

(b) and (c) Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process in which no complete rebuilding is done. The details of expenditure incurred for conservation of protected monuments of ASI, including forts, for the last three years, are as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | Funds allocated/utilised (Rs. In lacs) |
|---------|---------|---|
| 1. | 2009-10 | 15300.43 |
| 2. | 2010-11 | 15653.87 |
| 3. | 2011-12 | 13397.75 |