

The criteria for declaring a language as Classical language is 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, then may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

The benefits available to a language granted a Classical status are as under:-

- (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 be 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.
- (b) Yes. Sir. The proposal to declare Oriya as a Classical language is under process.
- (c) An organization, namely, Lekhaka Sammukhya made a representation in September, 2012. Besides, Shri Ram Chandra Khuntia, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) sent his first representation in September, 2012. Meeting of Linguistic Committee on declaring Oriya as a Classical language was held on 23.07.2013.

Collapse of historically important structures in Maharashtra

2670. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many historically important structures across Maharashtra are collapsing, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government of Maharashtra has sent proposal for declaring historically important structures as heritage sites, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken till now?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH) :

(a) No, Sir. No Centrally protected monument is collapsing in Maharashtra. There are 285 Centrally protected monuments/sites in Maharashtra and all are in a good state of preservation.

(b) and (c) As per the record available Archaeological Survey of India has not received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for declaring historically important structure as heritage site.

World heritage status for delhi

2671. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to obtain the status of World Heritage City for Delhi, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts made to obtain the World Heritage status for Delhi; and

(c) how long would it take to obtain such status and the advantages of such a status?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The nomination of Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities has been Submitted to World Heritage Centre for inscription in World Heritage List in January, 2014.

(c) The whole process may take more than one and a half years after submission of dossier. Involving evaluation report of ICOMOS mission, decision of World Heritage Committee which evaluates each point/issue very critically *i.e.* Outstanding Universal Value, Integrity and Authenticity of site, Management mechanisms, legal provisions, issues related to property and buffer zones for the site, etc. WHS status provides wider recognition and a higher profile, broad legal status, economic, technical assistance and networking opportunities and International Collaboration in protection. It improves the management, preservation and conservation levels of the universal value of the site. The site is viewed more favorably and provides a promotional advantage and a 'branding effect' which encourages new investment and increases tourism. It is seen as a mechanism for building local confidence and civic pride which provides social unity.

Exports of Sonars by DRDO

2672. SHRI MOHD. ALIKHAN :

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is exporting Sonars to Myanmar and other countries; and