

(b) if so, in what manner it violates the guidelines of UGC with regard to Ph.D. course; and

(c) the status of those students who takes admission in Ph.D. course directly after completing four year bachelor's course?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the guidelines of UGC, the minimum duration for Ph.D. course is three years.

(c) The students having qualification of B.Tech/four year degree with 6.5 CGPA or equivalent are eligible to take admission in Ph.D. in IIMs.

Centre for excellence for studies in Classical Languages

2918. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would start a centre for excellence for studies in Classical Languages and set up professional chairs in Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of languages declared as Classical Languages and subsequent action taken for their promotion and development?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian Languages including Classical Languages. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been declared as Classical Languages. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) works for the promotion of all Indian languages including four classical languages namely, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia. There is a separate institute viz. Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) which works for the development and promotion of Classical Tamil. The Government of India is promoting the Sanskrit Language through three Deemed Universities viz. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSKS), New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati. Centres for Excellence in Classical languages of Telugu and Kannada have been established by CIIL. CICT has set up two professional Chairs at Tamil University and Annamalai University. University Grants Commission (UGC) has agreed for setting up of the Chairs in the Indian Classical Languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia in Central Universities.