

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 2091**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2022

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS TO MARATHI

2091. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state

- (a) The criteria for conferring the 'Classical language' status to a language;
- (b) The number of Indian languages conferred with the status so far and the languages identified for the purpose.
- (c) Whether there is a demand for conferring the 'Classical language' status to any other languages;
- (d) If so; the details thereof;
- (e) Whether Government has received any demand or representations to confer classical language status to Marathi; and;
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT OF
NORTH EASTERN REGION
(G.KISHAN REDDY)**

ANSWER

- (a) The criteria for classification of a language as 'Classical Language' as laid down in the Ministry of Home Affairs' Notification No. IV-1401/7/2004-NI-II is reproduced below
 - High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
 - A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
 - The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community
 - The classical languages and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- (b) Till date, the following six languages have been granted the status of Classical Language: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia.
- (c)&(d) No Madam. The Ministry has not received any proposals from state governments to confer classical status to languages other than Marathi. However, several letters have been received from various persons and organizations to confer classical status to Pali/Prakrit, Bangla, Assamese, Manipuri, Sindhi, and Maithili. But, without any formal proposal from state governments, no action can be taken in this regard and the same has been communicated to the applicants.
- (e)&(f) Yes Madam. The Government of Maharashtra sent a proposal to grant the Classical language status to Marathi.
