

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2271

TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

**PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL/REGIONAL LANGUAGES.**

**2271. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:**

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has brought in new programmes and special budgetary packages for the promotion of classical and regional languages;
- (b) if so, the language-wise, year-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any representations from the State Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) & (b) The Government of India promotes all Indian languages including Classical and Regional languages. The National Education Policy, 2020 mandates promotion of multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. NEP provides, wherever possible, for medium of instruction to be in the home language/ mother tongue/ local language/ regional language up to at least class 5 and preferably up to class 8. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works for the promotion of Indian languages including Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia. Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Telugu language is functioning at Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) while Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada is functioning at Mysore. Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia Language is at Bhubaneswar while Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Malayalam Language is functioning from Tirur, Mallapuram (Kerala). Development and promotion of Classical Tamil is done by Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. The Government of India is promoting Sanskrit Language through three Central Universities, viz Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati. The details of

funds provided for various classical languages for the last 5 years may be seen at Annexure-A.

The Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, promotes Indian literature in 24 recognized languages and numerous unrecognised and tribal languages through diverse initiatives. It conducts regional and national seminars, and organizes programs like "Meet the Author," "Kavi Anuvadak," "People and Books," "Kathasandhi," "Kavisandhi," "Loka," "Nari Chetna," "Yuva Sahiti," "Purvottari," "Gramalok," and translation workshops to engage audiences and foster literary development. To preserve and promote unrecognised and tribal languages, the Akademi bestows the Bhasha Samman upon writers and researchers, having recognized languages such as Bhili, Pahari (Himachali), Tulu, and many others.

- (c) & (d) Yes, a representation was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter dated 18th October 2024, concerning the celebration and promotion of the richness of all Classical Languages. Ministry of Culture, through Sahitya Akademi is continuously making efforts to promote classical languages which include the publication of inter-Indian language translations of significant ancient and modern classical works, as well as the regular organization of literary programs such as seminars, symposia, author meets, and book discussions, all aimed at the promotion and development of our Classical Languages.

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**ANNEXURE-A****BUDGET GRANT SANCTIONED TO CLASSICAL LANGUAGES**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Kannada</b>	<b>Telugu</b>	<b>Odia</b>	<b>Malayalam</b>	<b>Tamil</b>
2019-20	107.00	107.00			9.83
2020-21	108.00	147.00	8.00	8.00	1200
2021-22	106.00	103.00	58.38	63.97	1200
2022-23	171.75	171.75	176.75	186.75	1200
2023-24	154.50	154.50	138.50	112.50	1525