

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3141
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS TO KANNADA
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to accord the status of classical language to Kannada;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c) : Many representations including one from the State Government of Karnataka have been received in this regard. As per Notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the criteria for classification of a language as a 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, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

A Committee of linguistic experts has been constituted to look into the matter. The issue of declaring Kannada as a classical language will be put up before it.