NOTIFICATION

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II—

Government of India created a new category of languages as ‘Classical Languages’ vide Notification No.IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II dated 12th October, 2004 read with the Corrigendum Notification dated 29th October 2004 and the following criteria was laid down to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as a ‘Classical Language’ :-

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand 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.

2. Tamil Language was notified as a ‘Classical Language’ vide para 3 of the aforesaid Notification dated 12th October, 2004.
3. The Government of India has now decided to amend para 2 (i) of the Notification dated 12th October, 2004 so to read as under:

"High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years".

4. It is also notified that 'Sanskrit Language' satisfies the above criteria and will be classified as a 'Classical Language'.

5. All other provisions of the Notification dated 12th October, 2004 will remain unchanged.

6. The Ministry of Culture will take all further steps required to follow up and implement the above decisions.

JAGRAM
Dy. Secy.