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Title : Need to fill up the vacant post of Professor of Tamil in South Indian Regional Language Department of Punjab University, Punjab.

SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, India's one of the oldest universities, Punjab University, had started South Indian Regional Language Department in 1966 to teach the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada to the students. They had appointed Assistant Professor as a permanent staff for Tamil alone in 1967.

In 2001, Dr. Ramakrishnan, Tamil Professor, had retired from his service. For the last 18 years, nobody has been appointed in that position. For other languages also, classes were not conducted properly. Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced in his Budget Speech to provide an aid of Rs. 12 lakh per year to support the Punjab University to appoint Tamil professors; and he also wrote a letter to the University in this regard.

I would, therefore, humbly request the Minister of Human Resource Development to intervene in the matter and find a solution to develop Tamil language, which is the oldest global language. The Government also has to extend its support for development of Tamil language and other regional languages like Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada etc. in other parts of India. Learning other regional languages and cultures will help strengthen secular India.