

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to promote regional and local languages.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: अब लोक महत्व के अविलम्बनीय मुद्दे लिए जाएंगे।

श्रीमती सुमलता अम्बरीश ।

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH (MANDYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Unity in Diversity' is the one quality that sets our great country apart in the world and the biggest evidence of this can be found in my home State of Karnataka where we have always welcomed, accepted and respected multiple cultural and linguistic identities. At the same time, we take immense pride in our language Kannada which is thousands of years old and also has been recognised as a classical language by the Government of India.

Sir, it goes without saying that each region and language have contributed and displayed to the entire world that there are bonds that can exist beyond language and cultural barriers. However, some regional concerns do exist and need to be addressed. One such is the proposed Three Language Formula. I think I speak for millions of South Indians when I say that we fear if Hindi is being pushed as the major or sole medium of communication, it might lead to the eventual decline of a regional language and this is not acceptable. Also practically speaking, for instance, when it comes to the banking sector, various Government schemes do not reach the intended poorer sections because of the employees' inability to communicate in the regional language and the common man not being able to articulate his issues in turn has led to a lot of negative sentiments about this.

We love and respect Hindi. सर, हमें हिन्दी भाषा से बहुत प्यार है, लेकिन उससे भी ज्यादा प्यार हम मातृभाषा से करते हैं । I think any national policy has to be approached keeping the regional linguistic identities and sentiments in mind. *Naavu Kannadigaru, Naavu Bharatiyaru* as much as anybody who speaks in Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi etc.

Lastly, I urge the Government of India, through you, to look into this matter and take it up seriously and ensure that our precious past is preserved intact for a beautiful future. Jai Hind, Jai Karnataka, Jai Kannada.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री डी. के. सुरेश, श्री बी. मणिकम टैगोर, श्री डी.एन.वी. सेंथिलकुमार एस. और श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्रीमती सुमलता अम्बरीश द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

माननीय सदस्यगण, मेरा आग्रह है कि सभी सदस्य अपनी बात एक मिनट में पूरी कर दें । Hon. Members, please conclude your submissions in one minute.