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Title: Request to include Tulu language spoken in two coastal districts of Karnataka in the Eight Schedule of the constitution.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you.

The UN is observing 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. In this context, I would like to invoke the Yuelu Proclamation made by the UNESCO at Changsha, the People's Republic of China in 2018. It says: "The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity helps to improve social inclusion and partnerships. It helps to reduce the gender and social inequality between different native speakers, guarantee the rights for native speakers of endangered minority, indigenous languages as well as non-official languages and dialects to receive education, enhance the social inclusion level and social decision-making ability".

I raise here the long-pending aspiration of a minority and non-official linguistic community called Tuluva people. The native speakers of the Tulu language are referred to as Tuluvas.

Tulu is a Dravidian language whose speakers are mainly concentrated in two coastal districts of Karnataka in south-western India, and in Kasaragod District of Kerala. The Indian Census Report of 2011 reported a total of 18,46,427 native Tulu speakers in India. The Tulu-speaking people are larger in number compared to Manipuri and Sanskrit which have the Eighth Schedule status. ...(*Interruptions*)

Tulu is not currently an official language in India or any other country. Efforts are being made to include Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. If Tulu is included in the Eighth Schedule, then it would get recognition from the Sahitya Academy. Then, we could get Tulu books translated into other recognised Indian languages. Members of Parliament and MLAs could ask questions in Tulu in Parliament and in State Assembly also. Candidates could write all-India competitive examinations, like the Civil Services Examination in Tulu.

So, the Government should take necessary steps immediately to include Tulu language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Thank you.