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Title: Need to restore central Marathi News Unit of All-India Radio in Delhi.

SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE (RAIGAD): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am coming from Raigad where a great warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, established Hindavi Swarajya. He was greater than Alexander and Napoleon. I am proud of him.

Sir, I am raising a matter of urgent public importance. It is related to Marathi language. It is an official language and co-official language in Maharashtra and Goa States respectively. This language is spoken by more than 83 million people in India. Sir, I would like to make a point that the Centre is belittling the Marathi language. One of these is lowering the status of this language by closing down the Central Marathi News Unit of All-India Radio in its News Headquarters Services Division in New Delhi.

Therefore, Sir, I am requesting the Government that the Central Marathi News Unit of Delhi should immediately be restored. This is my humble request. We are requesting the Government to give Marathi language *abhijat bhasha darja*.