

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding declaration of Thirukural as the National Book of India and celebration of 15th January every year as 'Thiruvalluvar Day'.-laid

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): Hon'ble Prime Minister during the visits in India or abroad, often quotes the great sayings from our Indian literature. Hon. Prime Minister is very much fond of quoting from more than 2000 year old Tamil literature, particularly from Sangam Tamil literature, world renowned literary work Tirukkural and verses from the poems of the father of modern poetry and great poet Mahakavi Bharathiyar. Hon'ble Prime Minister almost uses these quotations in every platform. Union Government has now made provisions for celebrating the birthday of Mahakavi Bharathi as the 'Languages Day'. Through this celebration, the name and fame of Mahakavi Bharathi -a prominent poet from Tamil Nadu- is being taken to greater heights and his noble thoughts are registered in minds of our youth in India and abroad. Even in the 'Kasi Tamil Sangamam', organised this year, the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathi was celebrated with so much of enthusiasm.

I wish to put before the Union Government the following demand. Thirukkural, a masterpiece of Tamil literature, is 2000 year old and has been translated into many languages. Thirukkural portrays righteous way of living which can be followed in all times and at all levels.

I urge that Thirukkural should be declared the 'National Book of India'. Similarly, 15th January, which comes after Pongal festival of Tamils, is being

celebrated as Thiruvalluvar Day every year in Tamil Nadu. This Day should achieve national importance. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to do the needful to celebrate 'Thiruvalluvar Day' throughout the Country on 15th January every year.