

Title : Demand to accord the classical language status to Marathi language

PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL): Hon'ble Chairperson, thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Today, I demand to accord the classical language status to Marathi language. "We are really fortunate that we speak Marathi, we are thankful that we listen Marathi, Our religion, sect and caste is only Marathi. We regard Marathi as our mother. Our minds and hearts are filled with love and respect for Marathi and it is flowing through our veins too. Our Marathi language is an ancient and prosperous language. It is thousands of year old language and you can trace the historical footprints of literature and religious books written in Marathi. This contribution is very important in Indian culture. As of now, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia languages have been identified as Classical language by Union Government. First written text in Marathi, ?Gaatha Saptashati? is a compilation of 700 poems of the people. Satavahana King Haul of paithan had compiled 50 poems in Marathi 2000 years ago. The state language of Satavahan Empire was Marathi and the copies of this text have been found at different locations under the Satvahana Empire. It was spread throughout India and the period is around 230 AD to 500 AD approximately. So, it is proved that Marathi language is more than 2000 years old. It also has got an original and continued literary tradition. Prof. Rangnath Pathare Committee had concluded that Marathi fulfills all the parameters to be recognised as a classical language and the classical language status should be granted to Marathi language.