

**Title:** Need to settle boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): Madam, Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute has been pending for a very long time, that is, since 1956. Maharashtra Legislature also passed a unanimous resolution that the Central Government should intervene in the matter and resolve the long pending issue. The demand of Maharashtra State is that boundaries between the two States should be re-adjusted on a rational basis and all Marathi-speaking areas, that is, Belgaum, Nipani, Karwar, etc. should be included in Maharashtra. The wishes of the Marathi-speaking people in these areas are reflected by the fact that people of border areas staged *dharna* and the aggrieved people sat on hunger strike before the Parliament. During the period of 45 years, many people even sacrificed their lives. However, the problem of the Marathi population is still where it was. It is not at all a fight between the two States of Maharashtra and Karnataka, it is a simple demand of the people who are Marathi and are keenly interested to remain in their own State.

During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Mumbai on 1.5.1998, an all-party delegation met and discussed with him the issue. The Prime Minister assured that he would discuss the dispute with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra separately and then hold a joint meeting of both the Chief ministers. But it has not yet materialised.

Considering the repeated requests from the State Government to the Government of India for intervening in the matter and convening a meeting for the long pending border dispute, the matter needs urgent attention of the Central Government.

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