

**Title:** Need to ensure that primary education is imparted in mother tongue.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Sir, in a country like India, which has several races and languages, the democratically elected Governments – both at the Centre and at the States – have a role to protect the cultural heritage of its national races. Hence the Government must endeavour to ensure universal education through mother tongue. Even after 50 years of Independence, primary education through respective mother tongues has not been made mandatory. Children can develop their thinking process only by instruction through their mother tongue especially at primary level. Hence, there must be a uniform approach throughout the country. In the pattern like that of Tamil Nadu, the Centre must also take initiative in this regard. Instruction in mother tongue in all the primary schools must be made compulsory.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a national policy in consultation with all the States in this regard. This is necessary to safeguard the interests of the younger generation, respective national races and of the country as a whole.

\* Translation of the matter originally delivered in Tamil