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Title: Need to declare Tamil as an official language of the Indian Union- Laid.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH) : Sir, time and again the matter has been raised in both Houses of Parliament by MPs from DMK Party that the Tamil should be included as one among the official language, taking into consideration the cherished values of being oldest in its grammar literature and esteem of its olden civilization.

The language is spoken by more than 100 million people throughout the world and is also one among the official languages of Singapore, Sri Lanka and also widely spoken in Malaysia and Mauritius.

It is, therefore, necessary to include Tamil as an official language to wipe out the disparity between Tamil knowing students and Hindi speaking students while participating in various National competitive examinations.

Further, Tamil with abundant administrative, scientific and technical terms in its possession is good enough to become an official language.

It is also pertinent to mention here that our leader Dr Kalaignar Karunanidhi has written to Prime Minister on 22nd April, 2003, to declare Tamil as one among the classical languages in this country, citing out various qualifications Tamil language possesses to become a classical language.

I urge upon the Government to see that Tamil is declared as an official language of the Indian Union and should also be declared as a classical language without any further loss of time.