

Title: Need to declare 2002-2003 as Tamil year - Laid.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : I would like to bring to the notice of this House the commitment made by the Prime Minister while declaring the year 1999-2000 as SANSKRIT-YEAR. He assured that subsequent year that follows thereafter would be declared in the same manner to honour all other Indian National Languages. But no further pronouncement did come forth as assured.

Also there are mythological reference in support of its existence since time immemorial. A reference is there about a debate between Lord Shiva and the great Tamil exponent and Nakkiranar over the form of a sonnet authored by none other then Lord Shiva himself in Tamil. Besides many classics are there in Tamil Languages, Tholkappiyam, Aymperumkappiyam, Pathinenkizhkanakku, Pathurhupattu, Ettuthogai etc. are some of the examples which are of very high values.

Hence, I request the Prime Minister to declare the year 2002-2003 as TAMIL YEAR and Tamil be recognized as classical language first, as per the assurance by our Prime Minister.