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Title: Need to declare Tamil as an official language of the Union Government. – Laid.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Tamil is one of the oldest languages of the country. In fact, besides Sanskrit, it is an ancient language spoken by crores of people spread throughout the world. Tamil is the official language of Tamilnadu as well as one of the languages of Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and some middle-east countries. Tamil language has rich literature and a great history. Tamil language has been declared by the Central Government as a classical language. Tamil is taught as one of the languages in many colleges and universities in several States.

Mere declaration of Tamil language as a classical language would not suffice unless concrete steps are taken to promote and propagate the language. When Tamil language is used as one of the official languages of foreign countries, it is surprising to note why it is not used as one of the official language of our own country. In fact, I demand a Central Tamil Council should be set up on the lines of Central Hindi Samiti to propagate the Tamil language. Tamil should be declared as an official language besides Hindi and English of the Union immediately.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government of bring forward a suitable legislation to give effect to this historical proposal.