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Title : Need to accord status of a classical language to Kannada language.

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Mr Chairman Sir, Kannada language along with Kannada culture has a history of over 2000 years. As you are well aware Sir, Kannada language has bagged 7 Jnanapeeth awards, the highest in the country. Revolutionary religious leaders and great writers like Mahaveerjain, Bahubali, Basaveshwara, Akkamahadevi, Sarwajna and others have contributed their might to the development of Kannada language. Similarly popular rulers like Immadipulikeshi, Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar, Gangas, Kadambas, Akka Bukka and others have also done their best for the glory of Kannada language. Despite all these factors, the pride place has not been given to Kannada language. If the situation continues like this Kannada language may find a place in the list of endangered languages. Like Sanskrit language Kannada language will also be ignored by the people.

Now, agitations and demonstrations are taking place throughout the State of Karnataka, protesting against the negligence of Kannada language both by the State and the Centre. Six and a half crore Kannadigas are demanding the status of a "classical language" for Kannada. Former Vice Chancellor, writer and social worker Shri D. Javare Gowda, an 86 years old veteran, will be on hunger strike from January 2006. He has cautioned the Centre that he is going to return the Padma Bhooshan award to the Centre if Kannada language is not accorded the status of classical language by 15.12.2005. This popular personality of Karnataka has alleged that we the members here have not raised this issue in this House. The people of Karnataka are eagerly waiting to hear good news from the Government of India. In fact, the Hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil has given a positive assurance to the people of Karnataka in this regard during his recent visit to the State.

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\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to seriously consider the cultural heritage of Kannada language and its service to the mankind and to accord the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR): Mr Chairman Sir, just now my friend and colleague Mr Shivanna has raised a very vital issue in this august House. Mr D. Javare Gowda, the former Vice Chancellor is very old and he is on fast until death. The people of Karnataka have high respects for him. If some thing happens to him we all will get a bad name. Hence I would like to associate myself with Mr Shivanna and to request the Centre to look into this matter with all seriousness. Kannada language, which has a long history and heritage, deserves the status of classical language and in fact this is the dream of the people of Karnataka. Government of India took a wise decision to accord the status of classical language to Tamil last year. Once again I urge upon the Government of India to demonstrate their statesmanship in according the status of classical language to Kannada language immediately.

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\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mallikarjuniah, you may associate with Shri Shivanna.