

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 7

Date : 21-02-2006

Participants : Mallikarjunaiah Shri S., Gowda Shri D.V. Sadananda

Title : Need to declare Kannada as a Classical Language.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (MANGALORE): Kannada is an ancient language. As a member of the Dravidian language family its life span has crossed two thousand years. Kannada branched out from the proto-Dravidian family in 6.5 B.C. Scholars have proved that Kannada was the first major language. Its oldest recorded word 'isila' is found in the Brahmagiri inscription of Ashoka which is located in Karnataka. This inscription is from Third Century B.C. 'Isila' is a place name. This city was in a place in mid Karnataka as on date. This evidence suggests that Kannada was a spoken language in the area by the time. ...

(Interruptions)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : रीजनल लैंग्वेज का मैटर सुबह डिस्कस हो चुका है।

...(ब्यवधान)

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Sir, practically I gave the notice in the morning with regard to the same issue. But my fate was that I could not raise that issue in spite of my request to the hon. Speaker. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude within one minute.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Sir, I will not take much time. I will take only one minute[[c67](#)].

Sir, Kannada literature has an independent tradition. Critics have established that the uniqueness of Kannada literary tradition is that it has continuously strove to be different from Sanskrit literary tradition. The very first Kannada work on poetics and grammar, Kavirajamarge clearly establishes the separate identity of Kannada language and literary tradition.

Kannada literature is vast. It comprises of both oral and written components. Its epigraphical material is abundant and is full of cultural elements. Karnataka has a record number of inscriptions. Over 25,000 of these inscriptions written in Kannada language and script are found in various parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. There are many instances where the mainstream poets like Ranna and Janna as early as tenth century have written the texts of inscriptions.

Kannada literature is rich in the sense that it is not a mere creative literature but contains canonized local knowledge systems. There are books on grammatical tradition, dictionaries, encyclopedias and books on veterinary science, agriculture, medicine. All these facts indicate that Kannada is a fit case to be declared as a classical language. No other Indian language has such an unbroken history of writing.

Now, the case is before the Committee of Linguistic Experts for categorisation of languages as classical language. I urge on behalf of the people of Karnataka and I humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly prevail upon the Committee Members to consider the wishes of the people of Karnataka by according the status of a classical language to Kannada at an early date.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Sadananda Gowda on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्रीमती जयाबहन बी.ठक्कर - उपस्थित नहीं।