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Title : Need to accord the status of a classical language to Telugu.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Telugu script has more than 1,500 years long history, which is evident from the manuscripts on copper plates, palm leaves and stone inscriptions.

Telugu language is more than 2,000 years old.

Renowned King Krishna Devaraya, who ruled the South in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, characterised Telugu as the "best among Indian languages".

Telugu, given its unique script, distinctive character and antiquity, meets all the parameters set out by the Government of India to accord "Classical Language" status.

I would, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps for according the status of classical language to Telugu as that of Sankrit and Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh – not present.

Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi – not present.

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik – not present.

Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria – not present.

Shri Ashok Argal – not present.