

Title: Need to declare Punjabi as an official language of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I would like to make this submission in Punjabi.

सभापति महोदया : मेरे ख्याल से इंटरप्रेटर नहीं है।

â€(ब्यवधान)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I had given it in writing yesterday and I am sure the arrangement would be there.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The translation may not be there but he can still speak in Punjabi.

\*SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Madam, Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana and the headquarters of the Union Territory, has a population of about 10 lakhs. It is an important city of northern India. From the various surveys and the Census Reports, it is abundantly clear that the majority of the residents speak Punjabi, which is their mother tongue. However, the language continues to be denied its due recognition as an official language of the Union Territory, though Delhi and Haryana have accorded it the status of second language.

Accordingly, I urge the Government of India to declare Punjabi in Gurmukhi script as an official language for Chandigarh Union Territory, mandating the Administration and other authorities to conduct business in Punjabi besides the present system of doing it in Hindi and English.

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\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi