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Title: Need to confer the status of a classical language to Kannada.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD NORTH): There is an emotional and fervent demand by millions of people of Karnataka for getting classical status for the kannada Language. This demand is continuously pressed for by hundreds of Kannada organizations federations and above all by the literary faculty of the state for the last many years. This is further intensified since 2004. Responding to this the Government of India constituted a committee consisting of language experts on 01-11-2004 and prescribed certain yardsticks for language to be honoured with classic status. The kannada language certainly possesses all the requirements laid down by this committee. The Government of Karnataka since then has been earnestly appealing the Government to make a declaration to this effect. Many delegations headed by Chief Minister of Karnataka met Prime Minister and pressed for its demand with necessary credentials and documents. There after many petitions have been sent to the Ministry of Culture. But till date the Government has remained unmoved testing the patience of millions of Kannadigas. I would like to bring to the notice of this Government that people of Karnataka are getting restless over the attitude of the Government of India on this sensitive issue. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take the serious note of this longstanding demand and bestow upon Kannada one of the most ancient languages of the World, the classical language status.