

>

Title: Need to protect the interests of Linguistic scholars by permitting them to offer prayers in temple by singing songs in their mother tongue throughout the Country.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Sir, from time immemorial, throughout the country, a large number of poets, scholars, and devotees have written lyrics and poems praising Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu in their respective languages. The four most revered Shaivate Saints – Appar, Sundarar, Sambandar and Manikkavasagar – and other Nayanmars have composed and written a number of poems praising Lord Shiva. Devaram and Thirvasagam are part of important Tamil literature. Recently, Tamil Oduvars tried to sing Devaram and Thiruvagasam at Sri Chidambaram Natarajar Temple, where the above hymns written on palm leaves were supposed to be found 1000 years back by famous ruler Raja Raja Chola. During that time, nine persons were arrested including eight advocates. At the same time, the Oduvars and devotees are not against the present system of singing songs in other languages.

I urge upon the Government to take steps to protect the Oduvars and devotees who sing Devaram and Thiruvagasam in Sri Chidambaram Natarajar Temple. I also urge that all those arrested persons should be released immediately.