

>

Title: Need to accord Punjabi language the status of official language of Chandigarh.

**\*SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (ANANDPUR SAHIB)** : Sir, a language or a mother-tongue unites the people speaking that language. It serves as a bonding-link among its speakers. Punjabi is a rich language spoken in about 70 countries of the world by around 15 crore people. However, it is unfortunate that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Punjabi in Chandigarh – the capital of Punjab. It is being discriminated against in this city.

Sir, Chandigarh city of today was built only by displacing people of 28 villages of Punjab. The mother-tongue of the residents of these 28 villages was Punjabi. The mother-tongue of a majority of people residing in Chandigarh today is also Punjabi or Hindi. However, the Chandigarh administration has accorded official language status to English, ignoring these facts and the ground-reality. Sir, constitutional norms have been violated by the Chandigarh administration in this regard. It is also an injustice to the 11 lakh residents of Chandigarh. As per our constitution, only the mother-tongue of the residents of a particular area can be accorded the status of official language over there.

Sir, I would like to ask the powers-that-be as to how they have accorded English as the official language of Chandigarh despite the fact that there is not a single person in Chandigarh whose mother-tongue is English?

Sir, in this august House today, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately accord Punjabi the status of official language of Chandigarh. The Government must put an immediate end to the step-motherly treatment being meted out to Punjabi in Chandigarh.