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Title: Need to give special status to the state of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (NARSAPURAM): I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the last day. I want to remind you that today is the International Mother Tongue day. I belong to Andhra Pradesh. My mother tongue is Telugu. We all know that yesterday Andhra Pradesh was broken into two. Our Telugu brethren have been divided into two. It pains me. For the last 56 years, I am working as a peoples representative. There is no doubt that I have been in the Well of the House. It was against my conscience but because of the voice of the people, I was in the Well of the House. Now, it is all over. I do not want to hurt anybody. The State of Andhra Pradesh has a Budget of Rs. 1,80,000 crore. Earlier in 1956, we started with Rs. 500 crore Budget. Now, that has reached Rs. 1,80,000 crore. It is because of the hard work done by Telugu brethren. We were almost number one as a developing State in the country.

Mr. Chairman, our language has so much of importance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Kindly Sir, please bear with me for 2 minutes. The Bill has already been passed. We have to be sportive enough. We have done our best. Ultimately, the Government has taken the decision. Now, I appeal to the Telugu brethren that we should be together and work hard with the healthy situation. The Polavaram project was announced by the hon. Prime Minister. He has mentioned that by the Ordinance it can be put on the ground. It will be useful. The State of Andhra Pradesh should have been given special status for 10 years. The special status is given for 5 years. It can be reconsidered. We are thankful to Shri Rahul Gandhiji for initiating this. Ultimately, we expect from the hon. Chair to see that these words will be heard by the Prime Minister in helping us to have a healthy Telugu State.

My hearty complements to all my telugu brethren and I take leave wishing everyone a good future.