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Title : Need to set up a National Institute of Epigraphy in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): I would like to raise a matter of public importance concerning setting up of a National Institute of Epigraphy in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has got maximum number of inscriptions, approximately one lakh in number. Out of these, 60,000 are Tamil inscriptions. I feel it is pertinent to mention here that in every excavation that has been conducted in the State of Tamil Nadu such inscriptions are found in large numbers. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has made a demand to set up an Epigraphy Institute in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also willing to allocate land for the establishment of the same. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also demanded that an announcement can come as a welcoming prelude to World Tamil Classical Language Conference to be held in June, 2010 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It has also been proposed by the leading archaeologist Padama Bhushan Awardee Iravadham Mahadevan to set up a National Institute of Epigraphy in Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up a National Institute of Epigraphy in Tamil Nadu.