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Title: Need to accord classical language status to Malayalam.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I would like to speak here on a matter of utmost importance which has been agitating the sentiments of every Malayalam speaking person. The question of according classical language status to Malayalam has been pending with the Union Government for a long time. Though the Government of India has accorded classical language status to other Dravidian languages like Kannada, Tamil and Telugu, it has not yet recognized Malayalam as a Classical Language. Numerous scholars of eminence have written extensively in Malayalam language. The language is as old as the civilization in India. A committee headed by O.N.V. Kurup had found that Malayalam met all the parameters for getting the classical status such as antiquity, a literary tradition that has evolved through centuries and grammatical features.

It is learnt that the Government of India has formed a panel of linguistic experts to examine the issue of according classical language status to Malayalam. The matter is pending with the Sahitya Akademi for a decision.

If Malayalam is accorded the status of a classical language, it would be eligible for certain benefits like international awards for scholars and mandatory professional chairs at Central Universities.

I, therefore, request that the Malayalam language may be accorded the classical status at the earliest so that it is eligible for certain benefits which are accruing to languages which have been given this status.