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Title: Need to accord classical language status to Malayalam.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Malayalam language which belongs to the Dravidian family of languages has been denied the classical language status on the grounds that it does not have 1500 years history. It has been reported that the Sahitya Academy rejected the request on citing this reason. However, no official statement on this has been issued yet nor the Government of Kerala was consulted on this matter. Malayalam has a history of 2300 years and many classical texts like Arthashastram and Bhagavad Gita were translated into Malayalam in 10th century. The first translation of these texts was in Malayalam. The signs of Malayalam as an independent language were shown since second BC. The grammar text of "Tholkapiam" had separate section for Malayalam along with Tamil and it shows that Malayalam as an identified language separate from Tamil existed since then. Therefore, the heritage and literature in Malayalam shows that the Malayalam language has a long history of more than 1500 years which is a basic requirement for giving classical status to any language. Malayalam has also produced best texts and well known writers and poets in the country.

Therefore, Government should reconsider the request of Kerala and take measures to accord classical language status to Malayalam.