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Title: Need to accept use of Tamil language in Madras High Court.

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to raise an issue that affects 60 per cent of the population in our country. I think that the Members and you also will acknowledge the issue that is being raised by me.

I am raising the issue of mother-tongue. Language is a medium of communication. It has come to form well before one lakh years. Language is more than just a medium of communication. It has a rich culture. It is everyone's duty to protect a language and the mother-tongue. Otherwise, we will lose our rich culture and tradition which our forefathers left for each and everyone.

All over the world, around 7,000 languages are spoken. In India, about 780 languages are spoken. Of these 780 languages, only 122 languages are spoken by more than 10,000 people. The Indian Constitution has recognised 22 languages including Sanskrit. All over the world, the oldest language is Tamil. In India, around 40 per cent of people speak Hindi and the rest of the people speak Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya etc. Of this, Tamil language is one of the oldest languages.

On the request of the former Chief Minister Amma in the year 2004, Tamil was recognised as a classical language. I support the demand of the people of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Government to include all the languages in the Eighth Schedule as the official languages of India.

Under Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India, English is the language of the Supreme Court and the High Courts for Acts and Bills etc. The forefathers and framers of our Constitution have anticipated difficulties of the citizens and included a Special Directive in Article 350 that every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for redress of any grievance to any office or any authority of the Union or State in any language used in the Union or in the State as the case may be. Also, in clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution of India, it says that notwithstanding anything in sub clause (a) of clause (1) of Article 348, the Governor of a State may with the previous consent of the President authorise the use of Hindi language as is already done in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan High Courts or any of the languages used for any purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in the State. If we are to take the administration of justice genuinely closer to the people, then it is absolutely imperative that local language is used in the High Court, as is already being done by the State Government and the Legislature.

I reiterate the stand of our beloved leader and former Chief Minister hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma and the people of Tamil Nadu and request the Government of India to accept the use of Tamil language in the Madras High Court and take up the matter again with the Supreme Court of India.