

an>

Title: Need to accord the status of Classical Language to Marathi.

*SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to raise an important issue during the Zero Hour. For according the classical language status to Marathi language, Government of Maharashtra had submitted its report in Marathi on 12th July, 2013 and in English on 16th November, 2013 to the Central Government.

As of now, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Oriya are the six languages which are accorded classical status. As a matter of fact, Marathi language fulfills all the requisite criteria for being a classical language. The age of prakrit started from 600 to 700 AD. Prakrit was very prominent during the times of Lord Buddha, Bhagwan Mahavir and Emperor Ashoka. The grammar book "Prakrit Prakash" was written during this period. In those days, Maharashtri apbhraṃśh was in practice. "Sri chamunda raye karavile gangaraje suthale karvile" this line was carved on a stone carving at Shravanbelgole which dates back to 983 AD and now it stands as a testimony for Marathi, being 1000 years old.

In my constituency, at Naneghat, there is a stone carving which is 2200 years old and in this carving a Marathi word "maharatthino" is written. Even during the Satvahan Era Prakrit Maharashtri language existed and it was very prominent.

Marathi language is spoken in 72 countries. There are around 20000 languages all over the world and Marathi stands at No.10. As many as 11.5 crore people speak Marathi. "Vinay Pitak" is a 2500 years old literary work. Even, the first literary book in Marathi 'Gatha Saptasati' is 2000 years old. This shows the ancientness of Marathi. 27th February is celebrated as Marathi Bhasha Diwas. Hence, it is my humble request to the Central Government that before 27th February, 2015, Marathi should be accorded the status of Classical Language. Jai Marathi, Jai Maharashtra. Thank you.