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Title: Need to declare Thirukural as National Literature.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Thirukural with profound universalism is unparalleled in world literature for its masterly exposition of the tenets of justice and ethics. Guiding mankind in human values it is a timeless treasure and transcends the barriers of caste, creed and religion. Thirukural, the Tamil didactic masterpiece rendered by Thiruvalluvar, dates back to the Sangam Era of ancient Tamil Nadu.

Thirukural is among the most translated literary works with a universal appeal even for the modern life. It has been translated into many languages of the world including Chinese, Arabic and classical European languages. In 1330 couplets, uniquely relevant secular values in consonance with the modern Indian republican polity have been effectively conveyed.

The need of the hour is to acknowledge that such a moral-precept rendition is with us having a place above all the religions because of its secular nature. Hence our beloved leader Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had drawn the attention of our Prime Minister to declare Thirukural as national literature. Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly also passed unanimously a resolution requesting the Government of India to declare Thirukural as our country's literature of great pride.

Every year we are celebrating January 16 as Thiruvalluvar day commemorating his birthday. On this occasion the Union Government must come forward to declare Thirukural being accorded the status of our national literature. Let this declaration be made as a gift to all the people of the world especially the Tamils world over.