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Title: Need to announce 'Tamil' as the court language in the High Court of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Hon. Speaker, before raising this issue I extend my sincere gratitude to my leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Madam, Tamil is a Dravidian language spoken predominantly in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. It has an official status in the Indian States of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Tamil is also an official and national language of Sri Lanka and one of the official languages of Singapore. It is also legalized as one of the languages and is a medium of instructions in schools in Malaysia. It is also chiefly spoken in South India as one of the secondary languages. It was the first Indian language to be declared as a classical language by the Government of India in 2004.

There are thunderous voices in Tamil Nadu for making Tamil language as language for trial courts and the High Court language. But the Madras High Court Bench dismissed arguing in Tamil in courts and held that the Constitution clearly states that the language of the Supreme Court and the High Courts "shall be in English".

The Constitution is clear. English is used in all official documents. This makes sense. The language of the law in India is English. But so far only four High Courts – in the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh – have used Hindi language. The unique allowance for Hindi in some High Courts is a disadvantage for the country Tamil speakers who have long resented Hindi encroachment from the North.

Our hon. Leader Amma earlier called upon the national lawmakers to allow Tamil to be introduced as an official language in the Madras High Court. Amma also insisted that if we are to take the administration of justice genuinely closer to the people, then it is absolutely imperative that the local language is used in High Court as is already being done by the State Government and the Legislature.

Madam, hence I would like to urge upon the Government to amend the Constitution to incorporate Tamil language as a court language in Madras High Court.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : इस पर अभी बहस नहीं हो सकती है, अगर आप एसोसिएट करना चाहें, तो कर सकते हैं। श्री केशव प्रसाद मोर्ये ।