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Title: Regarding a case registered in Madras High Court challenging the grant of classical language status of Odia and Malayalam.

*SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to place my views in Odia. I have already given a notice. Madam 11th of March in the day when Odia language was accorded 'Classical' status. Last year on this day we got this special status and today all over Odisha celebrations are under way. As per the U.N. declaration, February 21st is celebrated as the Mother Tongue day all over the world. We are celebrating March 11th as the 1st anniversary of the classical status of Odia language.

Madam, we got the classical status after a long period of relentless effort by many intellectuals, litterateurs, politicians and social reformers. They were all united in this endeavor and presented a voluminous document before the Central Government to plead this case, during the UPA regime. There after in 2005 on 25th November, certain guidelines were published regarding the necessary requisites for a classical language. As per those guidelines Tamil was given classical status for the first time. In 2014 Odia got the status.

Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam have also been accorded this status. But Odia's case is special because Odia language combines the finest elements of Aryan and Dravidian language. Odia language can be described as an Indo-Aryan classical language. But it is a matter of regret that PILs are being filed in the court of law. We all know about Public Interest Litigation but there are also private interest litigation. Recently a person named M-Gandhi has filed a case in the Madras High Court against Odia and Malayalam language being given classical status. Notice has been served onto the Central Government, Government of Odisha and Government of Kerala. Government of Kerala has already become intervener.

Madam, my contention is, if a certain language has been given a status why drag it into court. Odia is an ancient language that finds mention even in the Mahabharata of Vyasadeva. Odia script has changed but it is in existence since the last 2 millennium in the form of language and literature.

In the present era we have great writers like Sachi Routary, Ramakanta Ratha, Sitakanta Mahapatra, Manoj Das etc. who have been torch bearers of Odia literature. They are famous not only in Odia literature but also well-known world-over. Our language is the symbol of our pride. If someone drags us to court it is really unfortunate. It's like someone getting into a train compartment and then closing the door of other passengers. This kind of mentality should be discarded.

Madam through you I would like to request the Central Government to pay adequate attention to this case. On behalf of my party I'd like to mention here that each member of my party today would speak in Odia to celebrate this special day.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, we also associate on this issue raised by Shri Mahtab....(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मलयालम के बारे में कुछ मत बोलिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री प्रसन्न कुमार पाटसाणी को श्री भर्तृहरि महताब द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।