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Title: Regarding special assistance for development of classical language Telugu.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue which holds great sentimental value for the people of my State Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, it is a well-known fact that the official and native language of my State Andhra Pradesh is Telugu. It is more than 2,000 years old and one of the most prominent languages in India. It is the only language which has the official language status in more than one State and it is spoken by a significant number of people in many States and Union Territories like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and also by some Sri Lankan gypsy people. Telugu ranks third by the number of native speakers in India and it is the 13th most spoken language in the whole world. Due to its significance and illustrious history that has been associated with this language, the Government of India has given it the status of Classical Language to Telugu in the year 2008.

But with the Classical Language status, there are certain benefits which are given. For the Classical Language, two major international awards for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages are awarded annually and also a Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages is set up. Then, the University Grants Commission also can be requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages. These are some of the benefits which are given to any Classical Language. Even though Telugu language has been given the status of Classical Language, none of these benefits has come to Telugu language.

So, I would request the Central Government to set up an institute for the exclusive study of Telugu in the State of Andhra Pradesh as greater work on the language can take place if it is present in the State where the language originated and also to speed up in including more number of Central Universities where the Professional Chairs for Telugu can be created.

I would also like to request the Government of India to increase the number of Central Awards from the existing two to five annually for the scholars of eminence in Telugu language. This would be of great help to our language and to our culture. I hope the Central Government would take efforts to fulfill these demands early.

12.39 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERSContd.