

Regarding adoption of Tamil as language of the Madras High Court-laid

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): In addressing a query posed in the Rajya Sabha on 09.02.2023, the Union Law Minister has conveyed that the Cabinet Committee's decision of 21.05.1965 underscored the importance of securing the Chief Justice of India's consent for proposals concerning languages in the High Court. The President possesses the authority to either approve or disapprove. The Constitution does not empower the Supreme Court to reject such requests. Article 348 (1) specifies that proceedings in the Supreme Court and High Courts shall be conducted in English unless altered by parliamentary legislation. Furthermore, Article 348 (2) empowers Governors, with the President's endorsement, to sanction Hindi or another language for use in the High Court of their respective states. The Official Language Act allows for High Court proceedings in the State Language, contingent upon the President's approval (Article 7). It's worth noting that several Indian states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal have already operated with their State Languages as the language of their High Courts, without Constitutional Amendments. In light of this, we earnestly request the revocation of the 1965 Cabinet Committee decision and the formal adoption of Tamil as the language of the Madras High Court.