

## **Need to include Tulu language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution-Laid**

**SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** There is a strong case for adding Tulu, among other languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Tulu is a Dravidian language whose speakers are concentrated in two Coastal districts of Karnataka, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada and in Kasaragod district of Kerala. Tulu has a history of 2500 years. As per the 2011 Census Report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India, which has its own script as well. The cities of Udupi, Mangaluru and Kasaragod are the epicentres of Tulu culture. Tulu was introduced as a language in school by the Karnataka Government a few years ago. Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like Paddana, and traditional folk theatre, Yakshagana. Placing all deserving languages in the Constitution on an equal footing will promote social inclusion and national solidarity. The Tulu-speaking people are larger in number than speakers of Manipuri and Sanskrit, which have the Eighth Schedule status. Tulu is a textbook example of linguistic discrimination. I urge the Government to include Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in order to substantially materialise the promise of equality of status and opportunity mentioned in the Preamble.