

Title: Need to declare Tamil as a classical language and establish a Tamil Academy in Delhi- Laid.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR) : There is a continuing demand from all the Tamils to declare Tamil as a classical language and to make Tamil as another official language of the country, as a first step, before all other Indian languages are helped to grow as official link languages in due course. Delhi in a national capital territory with good number of Tamils settled here right from pre-Independence period. Tamil is a subject taught in Delhi University from the days of the Britishers and research facility is there now. More than 6 colleges and 7 schools in Delhi offer courses in Tamil. Jawaharlal Nehru University which also teaches Tamil is getting a Tamil Chair for research purposes. All India Radio broadcasts in Tamil right from 1941 through its ESD and NSD. But unfortunately a Tamil Academy is yet to be established here in Delhi, the national capital. Considering the fact Tamil-speaking population is in good number in the neighboring countries in the South and South East Asian region and also in Middle East Asia, there is an urgent national duty to establish a Tamil Academy in association with the Delhi Administration. I urge upon the Union Government to initiate immediate action in this regard.