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Tilte: Regarding 'Matrubhasha Diwas' celebrated across the world.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today is a very important day for all of us who cherish to relish and who cherish to propagate their own mother tongue. Today is the International Mother Tongue Day and very rightly Shri Prabhunath Singh and many others have spoken about their own mother tongue, Bhojpuri. I have given a notice today to speak about my mother tongue in my own language. As the 15th Lok Sabha is coming to a close today, it is very appropriate that I should speak in my own mother tongue.

* Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. I want to speak in Odia on the occasion of International Mother Tongue's Day. Mother-tongue is the life-force that sustains all of us. We inherit our mother-tongue from our parents. Mother-tongue connects us to our past, to our cultural ethos, to our tradition and to our heritage. Mother-tongue has roots deeply ambedded in our psyche. Mother-tongue is the cultural carrier and ultimate means of communication of its people. Mother-tongue lives in folk-lores, parables, legends and proverbs with which all our memories are integrally connected. Mother-tongue refleits the cultural milieue, helps us to integrate and to assimilate. Those who know the value of Mother-tongue, do not even hesitate to sacrifice their lives for this cause. Mother-tongue is the vehicle of self-discovery – it propels change for a better world.

Mother-tongue protects and promotes culture, literature, sculpture, art, theatre, dance and even educational system. Mother-tongue connects history to geography of one generation to another. It has a vibrant life force. Mother-tongue carries our ethnic values, memories and traditions and it is like the life-blood that runs in our veins. Mother-tongue keeps alive the seeds of our civilization that dates back to thousands of years. For the cause of Mother-tongue, people have rebelled and sacrificed their lives in every part of the world.

In the year 1952 on February 21st, one such act of rebellion took place. Three young men namely Jabar, Hyder and Rafiq dared to face bullets of the enemy in order to protect their language. Their sacrifice made the united Nations declare February 21st as the International Mother Tongue's Day.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I remember during the 14th Lok Sabha also once we the Member of Parliament, cutting across party lines had spoken in our respective mother-tongues. For the people of Odisha today is even more special. Because yesterday our language Odia was accorded 'Classical' language status by the cabinet. I thank our Hon'ble C.M. Shri Naveen Patnaik, Minister for Culture Madam Kochar and the Prime Minister. It's like the icing on the cake. The people of Odisha is general, intellectuals and all concerned are extremely happy. Now we can further promote and develop our language by establishing our own university. Today many are lamenting the gradual decline and death of regional languages. Let us all take a pledge to protect and promote our own language on this opportune day.

Today I am reminded of a famous poet of my state Shri Gangadhran Meher who had said – if one does not love one's mother land or mother-tongue we can never consider him a wise man. .

HRI P.L. PUNIA (BARABANKI): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri B. Mahtab...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri B. Mahtab...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me permission...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, keeping in view the sentiments expressed by Shri Mahtab...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर बोलना है तो अपना नाम लिखकर भेज दीजिए।

â€¦(बुवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : कुछ भी रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएगा।

...(व्यवधान) *

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : कृपया बैठ जाइए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to submit my views on an issue of urgent national importance. At the outset I would like to say that this very day is being observed throughout the globe as 'International Mother's Tongue Day'.

My esteemed colleague Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab has already expressed his views on the importance of mother tongue of every citizen of our country.

I also do associate with his submission. *And, at the same time, as in the year 1952, in the undivided Bengal, for recognition of Bengali language, there was a language movement in Dhaka University. Three young students sacrificed their lives in that movement - they were Jabbar, Haider and Rafique. We pay our respectful homage to these martyrs. I also pay my respect to all the mother languages. Bengali is the language of Rabindranath Tagore who said, "mother tongue is like mother's milk". People fought for the dignity of the language and today we celebrate International Mother Language Day. Thus, we should do our best to uphold the pride and majesty of all the vernacular languages in our country and the Government should also do the needful to develop these languages. This is my demand and the House must take cognizance of this fact. It is our duty to work towards the promotion of our own languages in right earnest.*

Sir, at the same time, while we are observing this solemn occasion, our mothers throughout the country are attacked. Their modesty is at stake. There is alarming rise in attack, sexual attack, and molestation on the mothers throughout the country, especially in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions) In West Bengal it is alarmingly rising....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, in my constituency, recently an adivasi woman has been brutally gangraped. On this incident, even the hon. Supreme Court....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

(Interruptions) â€¦*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Susmita Bauri, Sk. Saidul Haque and Shri P.L. Punia are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

...(Interruptions)