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Title: Regarding inclusion of Belgaum, Bhalki, Bidar, Karwar, Nipani and other border areas in Maharashtra state and accord Marathi language status of classical language.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH) : I am going to speak in Marathi.

Sir, tomorrow is 1st of May, the day on which Maharashtra was formed. On 1st May 1960 Maharashtra was formed. Chairman Sir, the brave warriors like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sambhaji Maharaj, Tanaji Malasure, Jiva Mahala belonged to Maharashtra. These great sons gave Swarajya and Surajya to this nation. Bajirao Peshwa had conquered the region upto Atak and Delhi. Such was the glorious history of Maharashtra. Sir, tomorrow is Maharashtra Day. Kindly permit me to speak, tomorrow is holiday that is why I am speaking today. On this occasion, I want to wish you and congratulate you. Maharashtra has contributed in each and every field. Gandhiji's guru Gokhale, revolutionaries like Lok Manya Tilak, Chapekar brothers, Hutatma Rajguru all were Marathis. Sunil Gavaskar, Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar, are also from Maharashtra.

Sir, Please allow me to speak, tomorrow is the anniversary of Maharashtra and I have spoken only for 15 seconds. Even Lata Mangeshkar belongs to Maharashtra. Pioneer of journalism 'Darpankar' Shri Balshastri Jambhekar was also from Maharashtra. Father of Indian Film Industry Dadasaheb Phalke was also a Marathi. Many other renowned actors of Hindi Film Industry are Marathis. Tomorrow is Maharashtra Day and it is the 55th Anniversary. When Maharashtra was formed on 1st May 1960, on that occasion Lata Mangeshkar had sung a beautiful song which goes like this:

"बहुत अरोत सुंदर संपन्न की मठान,

प्रिय अमुचा एक मठाराहंदू देश ठा."

United Maharashtra movement was very vast. Senapati Bapat, Acharya Atre, Prabodhankar Thakre, Shripad Dange, Kothari and S.M. Joshi fought for united Maharashtra. 106 people died in that movement and only after that Maharashtra was formed including Mumbai. But I express my sorrow because Belgaum, Bhalki, Bidar, Karwar, Nipani and other border areas were not included in Maharashtra. They should also be included in Maharashtra. The status of classical language should be accorded to Marathi language. Thank you.