

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding need to declare Marathi as a Classical Language.

(Interruptions)

***SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI)** : Hon'ble Madam Speaker, Thank you very much. For the last couple of days, Shiv Sena party has been in protest and demanding classical language status for Marathi language. We are not protesting all of a sudden but we have been fighting for this demand for the last 10-15 years. We pressed our demand through correspondence and our delegation also met Hon'ble Home Minister as well as Hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard. Our Shiv Sena MP Shri Arvind Sawant raised this issue repeatedly through Zero Hour, '377' during last 4 years. Our another MP Shri Shivajirao Adhalrao Patil had also raised this issue many times. Our Marathi has got some special and exclusive features as a language. As of now, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Oriya, these six languages have been recognized as classical languages. Our Marathi language

fulfills all the parameters and criterion like ancientness, originality and continuity of the language, established and independent linguistic and literary tradition set for the classical language status. We have submitted all the records relating to the ancientness of our Marathi language in this House and also to Hon'ble Minister. Government of Maharashtra has also sent the recommendation in this connection. But unfortunately, no concrete decision has been taken in this regard till date. In the reply given by the Government, they explained that if Marathi is given the classical language status, we would have to extend it to all the other languages. But, it has to be decided on the basis of prescribed criterion. Some other languages may be dialects despite that if they fulfill the norms they should also be recognized as classical languages. We demand that an immediate action should be taken in this regard.

Hon'ble Home Minister is present here and he could give us a positive and satisfactory reply in this connection. We are not at all interested in agitations. If you kindly direct him to reply, he would definitely indicate the stand of the Government in this regard. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : : श्री को श्री आनंदरावश्री भैरों प्रसाद मिअडसुल द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

गृह मंत्री (श्री राजनाथ सिंह): अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य ने मराठी भाषा को शास्त्रीय भाषा घोषित किए जाने की मांग रखी है। ... (व्यवधान) चूंकि यह विषय गृह मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं है, ... (व्यवधान) मैं उन्हें आश्चस्त करना चाहता हूं ... (व्यवधान) कि इस संबंध में, मैं संस्कृति मंत्रालय (मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ कल्चर) से भी बात करूंगा, ... (व्यवधान) ताकि इस प्रश्न को वह गंभीरतापूर्वक लें। ... (व्यवधान)