

be included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. This is a legitimate demand. Konkani is the mother tongue of a far larger number of people than for instance Sindhi, which was accorded recognition and included in the 8th Schedule as early as 1967. Konkani has also been recognised by the Sahitya Academy as one of the modern Indian languages. The inclusion of this language in the 8th Schedule will fulfil one of the major aspirations of the people of Goa and other parts of the Konkani area and will accelerate the cultural and literary advancement of the Konkani speaking people.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India to take necessary steps in this direction.

(iv) Need for early completion of Pachaiyar Irrigation Project in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): The Central Planning Commission had, many years ago, accorded approval for Pachaiyar Irrigation Project in Nanguneri taluk, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. The Irrigation Commission constituted by the Government of India had also referred to the chronically drought-afflicted areas of Tirunelveli district, particularly Nanguneri taluk and adjacent areas, which would have received the maximum advantage from this irrigation project. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had also laid the foundation-stone for this project. During the President's rule in Tamil Nadu, funds were allocated for this project—during 1975-76.

The State Government in Tamil Nadu has not taken up this scheme, on the argument that the rare species of monkeys living in this area, would become extinct by the implementation of this project. The argument of environmental imbalance will not hold any ground, since these singaval kuranu (monkeys) are living at height of 6,000 feet; and this project is to come up only at 3,000 ft. Secondly, in the same area, in Panagudi, Nanguneri

taluk; Government of India have sanctioned a Defence project, after exempting the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act from application here. This has been done knowing full well that these rare species of monkeys are living far above 10,000 feet or so, and the felling of trees for this defence project would not affect these animals.

If this project is implemented forthwith, more than 200 tanks in Nanguneri and surrounding areas would get filled, and the parched earth would become fit for cultivation. Government of India should accordingly direct the State Government of Tamil Nadu to implement Pachaiyar irrigation project immediately, after simultaneously exempting the application of the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act.

(v) Demand of Civil Accounts Employees.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): A good number of employees of the Audit Department of the Government of India were transferred to the Accounts Department in 1975, with the specific assurance that the transferred employees would get the same facilities and perquisites as admissible to the Audit employees, not only at the time of transfer, but from time to time also. The said assurance was contained in the transfer order itself.

14.43 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

Not only that, the same assurance was also pronounced in this august House, too. But it is a matter of concern that the authorities concerned are failing in their duties in honouring the assurances given in spite of repeated representations, persuasions and appeals.

The promotional prospects and incentive increments, which the 'Audit Department Employees' are entitled to get at present, are being denied to the 'Accounts Department Employees'. There are no negotiating channels or

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

facilities of bilateral negotiations under the J.C.M. made available to the Accounts Department employees.

It is surprising that even after six years of its creation, the Accounts Department does not have any service rules, nor any code to govern its work.

Sir, as a last resort, the employees under their All India Organization, All India Civil Accounts Employees Association, concluded a two-day agitational programme to attract the attention of the Government as well as the Controller General of Accounts towards their long-standing demands like recognition facilities to units/branches, administrative powers to the Controller General of Accounts to negotiate with the employees' organization of their problems, assured facilities, as is being given/will be given to the Audit employees, should be made available to them, also among other demands. They are also demanding that the Controller General of Accounts do talk with their organisation on their long standing problems.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister to assure this House that the assurance given in this House by his predecessor will be honoured and that he will impress upon the Controller General of Accounts that the Government's policy is to have negotiated settlement of all problems and so he cannot be allowed to bypass that time-tested policy.

I also demand that the Minister should give an assurance to this House that all long-standing demands of the Civil Accounts employees will be looked into soon and the assurance already given will be honoured in all respects.

(vi) Need for declaring Tamil Scripture "THIRUKKURAL" as a national scripture.

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important subject. Our Tamil Nadu Information and Hindu Religious Endowments Minister requested the Central Government to declare the famous Tamil scripture THIRUKKURAL as the national work. When our Government declared the Peacock as the National Bird, Ashoka Chakra as the national symbol, we should also declare a work of famous author as the national work. The work selected should be on secular basis without any encouragement to caste and communal feeling keeping the secular character of our Government. Thiruvalluvar who took birth in our ancient land two thousand years ago preached a human philosophy. He was the first saint perhaps to break all the barriers of languages and regions and to declare thus:

"Pirappokkum Yella Uyirkkum
Chirappokum Cheithozhil Vettrumai-
yan"

That means all beings on the earth are equal by birth their superiority or inferiority takes place only on the basis of their acts of commission or omission. I may proudly submit that all other saints have more or less followed the path of our Thiruvalluvar. Kabirdas, Surdas and Meerabhai all other North-Indian saints, seers and poets have also followed the same cult. Hence if we take up the bio-data of all the famous authors of India, Thiruvalluvar will stand foremost among them. In regard to his date of birth there is no controversy. He took birth 33 years before the famous Jesus Christ came on the earth. Even the famous prophet Mohammad also took birth only after our Thiruvalluvar. Thirukkural has been translated not only in all India languages including Hindi, but also almost all foreign languages. This is the only one book which has been studied voluntarily by all Tamilians and others and millions of copies have been sold out so far. Hence I request the Central Government to declare it as the National Scripture.