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of engines, driven by diesel oil, in order to reach the fishing grounds located at far off places from the shore and to operate the fishing gear. The mechanisation of fishing boats has facilitated the propulsion. The use of HSD oil, which constitutes 60 per cent of the operation cost in fishing, has become an essential commodity in marine fishing sector, though the catches are uncertain to make the fishing economical. The marine fishing sector is exposed to vulnerability whenever there is an increase in the cost of HSD oil.

The Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators, Association has been demanding mid-sea bunkering facilities by saying that the operation of fishing boats has become uneconomical and difficult to sustain the commercial exploitation of deep-sea pelagic resources by encouraging the mechanisation of fishing boats due to the increase in the cost of diesel oil.

It is, therefore, requested to extend the facility of mid-sea bunkering to all the mechanised fishing boats operating in the vicinity at the same cost in order to reduce the operational cost on HSD consumption.

This issue is pending for the last three years. It is, therefore, requested that this may kindly be, xpeditied.

Demand for Inclusion of Tamil as an Official Language and Declaration of Tamil as a Classical Language

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairperson, my Special Mention pertains to the inclusion of Tamil as an official language and declaration of Tamil as a Classical Language. Tamil is one of the oldest languages in the world. It is noteworthy that the culture of Tamil language is invaluable and has got its universal status and recognition due to its impeccable cultural tradition.

My leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has written several letters to the Government of India requesting to amend the Constitution of India and make Tamil and other national languages specified in the Eighth Schedule as official languages along with Hindi and English. The State Government has also requested the Government of India to declare Tamil as a Classical Language along with Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic.

My leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has submitted several memoranda personally to the hon. Prime Minister of India on several occasions.

I therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to amend the Constitution of India immediately and make Tamil and other national languages

specified in the Eighth Schedule as official language without any further delay, and call upon the Government to notify Tamil as a Classical Language at the earliest and render justice. Thank you.

SHRIN. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I very proudly associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

DR. V. MATTREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

SHRI R. KAMARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam I associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I associate myself with what Shri P.G. Narayanan has stated.

SHRI S.TDUTHALANTRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, this is not a political issue. The first step that should be taken is to see that all the regional languages in the Eighth Schedule are made official languages of the Union of India. This is the first point. The second point is that a conference was held in Tiruchi where a resolution was passed and sent to the Central Government. This is a matter pending for the last five decades. Recently, ten years ago, we had passed a resolution at Tiruchi and sent to the Government of India. Our Leader, Shri Karuna Nidhi, had also sent a letter to the Prime Minister requesting him to see that Tamil is declared as a Classical Language. There are eleven criteria to be fulfilled for declaring a language as a Classical Language. The Tamil language fulfils all the eleven criteria. Therefore, it should be declared as a Classical Language and steps should be taken to see that all regional languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution are made as official languages of the Union of India.

Scrapping of Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act, 1983

SHRI INDRAMONI BORA (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I beg to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Law Minister to scrap the Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1983. Madam, there has been a systematic infiltration from erstwhile East-Pakistan now Bangladesh to Assam. Infiltrators take advantage of ethnic, linguistic and regional similarities with people living in certain concentrated pockets in Assam.