

P.N.No. 131.

M. KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER

Dear Raja,



L2/10-464

Date . 06.11.2010

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009

Date... 6.11.2010...

The Government of Tamil Nadu has come to know that Government of India (Department of Information Technology) has sent a communication to the Unicode Consortium, proposing to encode Indian Heritage Scripts (Vedic, Sanskrit and Grantha) in the Unicode Standard, so that ancient knowledge could be represented on electronic media, computers, internet, etc.

This proposal has raised considerable concerns from a wide cross-section of Tamil community around the world. They have indicated that sufficient consultations have not taken place with eminent Tamil language scholars, before submitting the proposal. In particular, considerable reservations have been expressed about inclusion of five Tamil characters into the Grantha code places.

Responding to these concerns, I convened a meeting attended by Prof.K.Anbazhagan, Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.K.Ponmudi, Minister for Higher Education and other senior members of the Tamil Nadu cabinet, along with eminent Tamil scholars, viz. Thiru.K.Veeramani, President of Dravidar Kazhagam; Prof.V.C.Kulandaisamy, former Vice-Chancellor, Anna University; Prof.M.Anandakrishnan, Chairman IIT Kanpur; Thiru.Vairamuthu, Tamil Scholar and Poet; Tmt.K.Kanimozhi, Member of Parliament; Thiru. Ravikumar, MLA and Writer; Prof.M.Rajendran, Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur and Thiru.Aravindan, IT Expert, Singapore, on Thursday, the 4th November, 2010. During these deliberations, an unanimous view emerged that the proposal requires much wider consultations before finalising it. In this connection, Tamil Nadu Government would like to constitute a High Level Committee to hold wider consultations and make recommendations on the proposal.

Since the proposal has gone from Government of India to the Unicode Consortium, it may be desirable for the Hon'ble Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, to advise the Unicode Consortium, to defer consideration of this proposal, pending wider and in-depth considerations among various scholars and stakeholders.

I would appreciate if I am kept informed of the developments in this matter.

Kind Regards
Yours sincerely,

M. Karunanidhi
(M.KARUNANIDHI)

To
Thiru A.Raja,
Hon'ble Minister of Communication
and Information Technology,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

வெளியீடு, இயக்குநர்.
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை,
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