

ont>

12.53hrs.

**Re: Order issued to all Central Schools to observe Christmas holidays in the month of January.**

Title : Decision of the Central Government to allow the Central Government Schools to have Christmas Holidays in January.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): The Human Resource Development Minister recently issued an order saying that the Christmas holidays must be observed in the month of January and not in December. This order was issued recently. Are we living in a fool's paradise or are we living in a devil's paradise? We are asked to celebrate Christmas holidays in the month of January whereas Christmas is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> of December every year throughout the world. The Human Resource Development Minister issued an order to all Central Schools in the country directing them not to give any holidays during Christmas, but they should be given only in the month of January. ...*(Interruptions)* This has created a very serious situation. It is a discrimination against a minority community and it is a discrimination against world faith and Christianity. The Minister has given a direction not to observe any holidays in the month of December and that the schools can observe the holidays in the month of January. This order should be withdrawn. It is a very serious matter and the Government should withdraw this order without any further delay.

HRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY): We associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will associate your names with what he has stated. I give the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. Your names will be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

HRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): We agree with him. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. It is a very serious matter and an immediate decision, in this context, is necessary because today is 22<sup>nd</sup>.

HRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, why did they give the directions to all Central Schools and changed the holidays from December to January? It is a very serious issue.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Today is 22<sup>nd</sup> December and the orders have to be issued immediately. May I ask Madam Sushma Swaraj to respond?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Sushma Swaraj has taken note of the issue.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is a very wrong decision....*(Interruptions)*

**श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर)** : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका ध्यान एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी हमारी राष्ट्रभाषा है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Why has the Central Government issued an order changing the holidays from December to January?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. Today is 22<sup>nd</sup> December and, that is why, we are urging the Government to issue orders within three days.

MR. SPEAKER: She is reacting.

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमा स्वराज)** : अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्यों ने जो कुछ बताया है, मैं माननीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री से इनकी भावनाओं को अवगत कराऊँगी और उनकी जो भी प्रतिक्रिया होगी, उससे सदन को अवगत करूँगी।

-----  
**श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर)** : अभी दो दिन पहले प्रधान मंत्री जी ने राजभाषा है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilasji, please sit down. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to introduce a Bill. If the House agrees, the Minister will introduce it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 22 of the List of Business – Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.