

an>

Title: Regarding circular issued by the Railway Board for displaying the destination boards on trains in English and Hindi only.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (KANAKAPURA): Respected Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to raise the issue regarding the unfortunate Circular issued by the Central Railway Board to install all instruction-informative signboards in Hindi and English, and to remove all regional language boards, which has thus caused widespread unrest among the people of my State, Karnataka.

Over the years, my people enjoyed the privilege to know the Railway information in their mother tongue. How can the irresponsible officers of the Railway Board snatch away the basic right of my people overnight? What is the intention behind this crude act? While they excluded Tamil Nadu from displaying Hindi boards and allowing the Tamilians to use the local State language, that is, Tamil instead of Hindi, why do not they allow Karnataka to use Kannada? Are they insensitive to the ground repercussion escalated by this blind act?

Our language, Kannada, is an official State language of Karnataka which is constitutionally recognized Regional language of the country. It won seven Gyanpeeth Awards, the highest literary awards of the nation. It is having 2,000 years of rich ancient linguistic history, and Kannadigas are eagerly expecting to receive the award of classical language status from the Central Government to Kannada. Sir, I demand the Government to award the classical status to Kannada language at the earliest. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You come to your demand.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, it is a very sensitive issue. Please allow me some more time.

Sir, at this juncture, the act of the Railway Board is very provocative and hurt the pride of the Kannadigas. As an patriotic Member of Parliament belonging to INC, I always defend the national unity and integrity. Unlike the Tamilians, we never violently opposed to Hindi language. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): Please do not say violent Tamilians. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Please listen fully. It is your right to be violent. ...(*Interruptions*) I am supporting your right. Why are you getting agitated? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, towards Hindi, the views of the Kannadigas are very progressive. But our broadmindedness should not be considered as our weakness. At the same time, we accept Hindi language for our convenience provided our own local language of the land, that is, Kannada being given the priority on all fronts. We will not allow or accept the superiority, the dictatorship or imposition of Hindi or English over our Kannada language. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a Special Mention. This is a speech.

...(*Interruptions*)[\[R74\]](#)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : In spite of my prayer to withdraw the Railway Board Circular and to maintain the earlier *status quo* to allow Kannada sign, information and instruction boards at railway station, on trains, they have not done so. If they proceed with the new Circular, I would be forced to launch a strong protest and sit on *dharna* in front of the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in the Parliament House.

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Laluji to look into this [â€](#) * Otherwise, these types of actions will divide the country and cause a lot of damage to the integrity and brotherhood of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Tejaswini, please take your seat. You are making a speech. This is a 'Zero Hour' and not a debate.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, it is a very important point.

Sir, I demand the hon. Minister to allow all the Constitutionally recognized State languages to use in the concerned

destinations of the Railways. We should not forget that we are living in the federal system of democracy where States enjoy their own powers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) *â€*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, you may please lay it on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Chengara Surendran

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, I request Laluji to act on this soon, and instruct the Railway Board to withdraw the new Circular. Once again, I condemn the poisonous and crude Circular issued from the Railway Board without understanding the consequences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is too much of you.

Those portions, which are not in conformity with the policy may be deleted.