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12.03 hrs.

Title: The Speaker made announcement regarding use of regional languages/Hindi/English on destination board in Trains.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may recall that Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, M.P. had raised the issue on 17th May, 2007 regarding deletion of regional languages (except Tamil) from the Destination Boards in trains throughout the country, by a circular issued by the Ministry of Railways. The Minister of Railways while clarifying the matter informed that it was not possible to withdraw the impugned circular as the same was issued under an Act of Parliament. The Railway Minister further suggested that the matter could be discussed in the Leaders' meeting.

The issue was again raised by Shri Tripathy in the meeting of Leaders of Parties held on 9 August, 2007. In view thereof, I decided to hold a meeting with hon. Minister of Railways and Leaders of Parties today to deliberate on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Railways were also requested to furnish a factual note on the matter which has since been received.

On the basis of the note furnished by the Ministry of Railways and the position explained by the Minister of Railways to Leaders of Parties today, the factual position is summarised as follows:-

"One destination board on each side of one coach will be in Hindi and English. The next coach will have the destination board in Hindi and the regional language pertaining to the originating station. The next coach will have destination board in Hindi and the regional language of the terminating station. This order will be repeated in subsequent coaches."

I am thankful to the hon. Railway Minister and the hon. Members for their very useful and constructive approach in the matter.
