

This resolution says that the knowledge of English will be compulsory for entering into service. I feel that there should not be any element of compulsion. We should make all the languages as medium of examination for services.

An annual report indicating the progress made in the development and spread of Hindi should be placed before Parliament. The education is spreading and people from villages are coming to cities to seek employment. We should allow them, and provide them ample opportunities to work in their own languages.

Students in Hindi-speaking areas are very much resentful these days. They have started agitations. It is not correct to say that they have been instigated by any party. It is a feeling of frustration that has prompted them to launch these agitations. They find that even after 20 years of independence their future career is blocked due to the lack of knowledge of a foreign language. If we are going to have regional languages in Madras, in Maharashtra and in West Bengal, then we must have a link language for the Union. This language cannot be a foreign language. Ours is a union of States but in spirit our Constitution has bestowed more powers on the centre. The question of official language comes under the jurisdiction of Central Government.

The Parliament should take a decision after taking into account the difficulties of various States but it cannot leave the decision to States. This Parliament can change the boundaries of any State. It can change their names. But in this Bill a provision has been made that a single State will have the right to ask that English should continue as official language and that will be done by the Centre. Thus veto power has been given to each State.

I feel that the powers of this Parliament have been reduced and the Vidhan Sabha of each State has been made more powerful. So far the matter of official language is concerned, this seems to be against the provisions of the Constitution. It is not a question of language only but it is a matter regarding powers of the Centre and State. The Central Government should consider all this. There is no opposition of Hindi in Kerala, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. It is only in Madras that Hindi is being opposed.

It is a decision of the Constituent Assembly, It is not an imposition of any kind. I agree that adequate steps have not been taken for the propagation of Hindi in Tamilnad. I know there are some institutions engaged in this job but some political parties are now blocking their work. I think that there is no need of passing this Bill. It will give a setback to Hindi. I demand that this Bill should be withdrawn.

The Prime Minister has said that this Bill is a compromise solution between two extreme view points. I do not agree with this because it is going to give a perpetual lease for the use of English.

We do not want that English should be removed at once. We want a position of parity for both English and Hindi. We want that there should be permission to use English and Hindi both. We are prepared for such an agreement.

The Prime Minister, Minister of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Planning and Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Indira Gandhi) After religion, it is language which rouses one's feelings. We have noticed so much excitement over this question. As Shri Vajpayee has said that the students are worried about their future. The language is a vehicle of expression and a source of unity but it is a misfortune that it is being used against the unity of our country. It is becoming a barrier between different parts of our countries. We have to think over those matter in a dispassionate manner. It is to be tackled likewise.

Languages are not developed by politicians. English has developed not by the efforts of politicians. It is the writers and poets who enrich the languages. We should understand that it is not by official work that a particular language can be developed. During

the days of foreign rule our languages were not given any encouragement for development. They remained as dialects only. Now when we are a free nation we should pay due attention for their development. By doing so we should provide opportunities to those people also who have been deprived of their legitimate facilities and privileges.

We have fifteen national languages. We want that all of them should be developed. People should have facilities to study them and carry out their work in them. But it is not practicable to use all these languages for Government work. We respect all these languages. We have to select one language which can serve as link language. That language is Hindi. I know that for the non-Hindi areas it will create some difficulty. Some people have said that Hindi is not a fully developed language. We want the cooperation of our brethren in South India in this task also. I would request all my countrymen that the use of Hindi in official work is not enough. It should be used in our day to day work also. More and more books should be written in this and works of other languages should be translated in this language. We should not be isolated from other countries. We should learn other languages also. We should have an international language also. This will acquaint us with the outside world. We will stand to lose if we discard it completely. In other countries study of foreign languages are given due recognition. There it is essential to study one foreign language. We find mostly that English is selected for study in France, Germany or Russia. We have the benefit that English is now our language. We have some arrangement for its study in our country. I admit that its standard is going down. But even then it is serving as a link. We want a language for use in our international dealings. This language can only be English. Thus we cannot disband English for that also.

It is a misfortune that the events are taking ugly turn. It is threatening the unity of our country. People in the North and in the South have been entertaining doubts about their future careers etc. We have to find a way for all this.

Now the position is that English has been our language for administration work. We adopted Hindi. It changed the position some what. Hindi has to be simultaneously developed. It has been provided that a report on its progress will be placed before Parliament. This House will view the situation and point out the short-comings. In this situation the Non-Hindi areas also want some safe-guards. It has been provided that, translations should be provided for them and they should be provided all facilities for the study of Hindi so that they, have no difficulty in this regard. In such a situation we have to adopt a middle course. Being in such situation, we cannot please all.

At present there are seven States that want that Hindi should not be imposed. The majority should take into account the feelings of those who are in minority. The Southern States want some more time for adopting Hindi. We should agree to their demand. It is not proper to settle such matters on street. It should be settled by persuasion and understanding. Some Ministers belonging to a particular political party have also taken part in language agitation. I do not think it proper. It is not good to resort to coercive methods. You can stage a peaceful demonstration, but setting on fire is something very different. We want to maintain the unity of our country. We want that Hindi should be used for cementing the unity of different regions of our country. Hindi should be spread by persuasion. There is no use in raising slogans. We have to take concrete steps for the spread of Hindi so that it can be a link between the people of different parts of our country.

श्री समर गुह (कन्टाई): मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। प्रधान मंत्री ने राष्ट्रभाषा का शब्द प्रयोग किया है। **

[उपाध्यक्ष महोदय पीठासीन हुए
Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

**कार्यवाही के वृत्तान्त में सम्मिलित नहीं किया गया।