

*The motion was adopted.*

17.32 hrs.

AUTHORISED TRANSLATIONS (CENTRAL LAWS) AMENDMENT BILL

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend authorised Translations (Central Laws) Amendment Act, 1983, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present, in accordance with the provision made in the Official Languages Act, 1963, a translation in Hindi published under the authority of the President of any Central Act or of any Ordinance promulgated by the President, or of any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued under the Constitution or under any Central Act is deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in Hindi. But there is no such provision at present with regard to the issuance of authoritative text of Central acts in other official languages of the country except in Hindi. In accordance with the provision made in section 2 of Authorised Translations (Central laws) Act, 1973, 1973, a translation of any Central Act etc. in a language, other than Hindi, mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Constitution; published under the authority of the President, is deemed to be authoritative.

Demand has been made from time-to-time that arrangements should be made to make available the authoritative text of Central Acts in the other languages mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Constitution also, in addition to Hindi. This

amending bill has been brought forward with a view to meet the above requirement. After passing this amending Bill authoritative texts of Central Acts in other languages mentioned in the Constitution in addition to Hindi, will be made available. Consequently, it would pave the way of quoting them in the courts situated in the States concerned. This will help in increasing the use of official languages of the States in their respective courts.

It would be a mile-stone in the direction of increasing the use of regional languages other than Hindi mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Constitution in the field of Law.

With these words, I would submit to the House to take this Bill into consideration and pass it unanimously.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli): Sir, I welcome the Authorised Translations (Central laws) Amendment Bill and felicitate the hon'ble Minister for this. Here in this House, we have been permitted to make speech in any of the 14 languages, but it is published only in Hindi. Why it can't be published in all the 14 languages?

A number of good and important Bills are brought forward in this House and they are passed. But the people living in every nook and corner in the country do not know that such Bills have been passed here. It is, therefore, imperative that the tribals and the people living in every nook and corner of the country be made aware of it.

A Parliamentary Publication in each of the regional languages should be brought out in each State and it should be made available at all the far off places of the country so that more and more poor people can read it and everybody could know as to what is going on in the Parliament and which Bills have been passed by the Parliament.

This knowledge will help them in bringing revolution. Moreover, they should also have knowledge about the laws passed by this House.

In each and every State there are some offices of the Central Government. If any notice is to be issued by these offices to a labourer, that is also issued in English but he does not know English but he does not know English and therefore, cannot read it and has to send its reply by getting it read by some other person which might cost him a sum ranging from Rs. 10 to 15. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs. Similarly, regional languages should be used in Munsif courts, lower courts, district courts and the offices of Central Government located in the states. Facility for translation should also be provided and entire law literature should available be in regional language for the convenience of the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I conclude.

[*English*]

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan): I welcome the Bill. But I think, this Bill should have been brought long ago. 15 years have passed when the original Act was passed, but the Central Government has done precious little for the development of other languages. They only spend hundreds of crores for the propagation and development of Hindi because often they pretend that only Hindi is the national language. In this way, they forget that India is a unity in diversity and that the Government should also spend for the development and enrichment of languages other than Hindi.

We find that there are seven Hindi States. They spend for the development and promotion of Hindi. The Government of India also spends crores of rupees for the promotion of Hindi. But what about other languages

like Tamil, Telugu, Bengali or Oriya. Thanks to the economic policy of the Central Government, the States suffer from a chronic financial stringency because the Central Government tries its best to deprive the State Government of additional finances. Look at the Income tax. They have not raised the rates of income tax lest the States are to get their share. Rather, they have imposed the surcharge. Similarly, they have not increased the excise duty. Rather by increasing the administered prices, they are trying to deprive the States of any financial benefit.

We urge upon the Government that it should spend money for the promotion and development of other languages too. In this connection, I would urge upon the Government to translate all future Bills into languages included in the Eighth Schedule. Otherwise, it seems that it will remain a pious platitude as regards translation of Central laws into other languages is concerned. In this connection, I would also urge on the Central Government to see whether Nepali can be included in the Eight Schedule. This demand is not a new one. We have been placing this demand for a pretty long time. But our demand has been rejected. Now, they say that the Nepalis are not being treated well. In fact, they are hunting with the hunter and running with the hare. On the one hand, they say that Nepali should not be included in the Eighth Schedule, on the other hand, they say that justice has not been done to the Nepalis. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to consider once again the case of Nepali so that it may be included in the Eighth Schedule.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Authorised Translations (Central Laws) Amendment Bill, 1988 which has been moved in the House. I appreciate the Central Government for its realising the feelings of

[Sh. Virldhi Chander Jain]

the people of the whole country and taking this revolutionary step. There are 14 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and this Bill will enable the Government to get the authorised texts of the Central laws prepared in all these languages. The Central Government will have to gear up its machinery and also employ highly capable personnel for this purpose. Even now the laws are enacted in English and thereafter they are translated into Hindi. But henceforth the translated version will be treated as an authorised text. The language used in Hindi translation is very difficult to understand as it is Sanskritised Hindi. I am myself a lawyer and know both Hindi and English. Even then I have to go through the English version, because I find it difficult to get the idea in Hindi. As such, while taking steps in this direction efforts should also be made to simplify all the languages. Only such competent persons should be engaged to render the translation from English who may use simple language. Otherwise the laws translated in other regional languages will be as incomprehensible as they are in Hindi. The people of this country should come to know about this legislation and for that purpose it should be drafted in a simple language. Not only that, all the laws enacted by the Parliament or the State Legislatures should be so simple that everybody could understand them. The laws so enacted should not create any confusion and they should not be incomprehensible to the people. It is not proper that the people should go to the advocates for the interpretation of the laws and spend lakhs of rupees due to the laws being incomprehensible. This aspect must be looked into. Steps should be taken to ensure that the languages are simplified and laws made simple. When authorised texts are made and laws enacted in the languages included in the Eighth Schedule, quotation in any of these languages could be given in the courts. The High Courts and the lower courts

as well as session courts will have to accord recognition to them. It is only after that that a new situation towards Hindi could be developed in our country. It will be highly commendable when a breakthrough is achieved in this direction. By promoting Hindi, the regional languages will enjoy due respect legally and otherwise, which will strengthen the spirit of national unity and make the nation strong. Just now my colleague was pleading for including Nepali Language in the Eighth Schedule. Similarly, I also demand that Rajasthani language be included in the aforesaid schedule. The terminology of the Rajasthani language is very old and vast. It is more exhaustive than Hindi. It will be no exaggeration if it is said that the source of Gujarati language lies in Rajasthani language. Most of the words of Rajasthani language are found in Gujarati language. Rajasthani language is replete with words of heroism and devotion. It cannot be compared with any other literature. The Government should see as to which of the languages possess rich literature and are exhaustive. Taking these aspects in view, Government should consider inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution seriously. There cannot be two opinions that promotion and propagation of regional languages will give a boost to the spirit of national unity and strengthen national integration. In this way the people can understand the regional languages very easily. Numerous Hindi Advisory Committees have been constituted in the Lok Sabha and different Ministries. The hon. Members make valuable suggestions in these Committees for the progressive use of Hindi. But these suggestions bear no fruit as no action is taken on these recommendations. No radical change is seen in the post offices, department of communication or any of the Ministries in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Hindi Advisory Committees attached to their respective Ministries so that there could be more use of Hindi. It is, therefore, necessary that recom-

mendations of the Hindi Advisory Committees attached to various ministries and departments are implemented seriously. It is only then that the purpose of constituting these committees will be served. With these words, I support this Bill which has since been presented in the House.

[*English*]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill. I heartily congratulate Mr. Panigrahi for piloting this Bill. This was long overdue. It is in the right direction. It helps the national integration.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to make a few comments. Sir, I urge upon the Centre that they should look upon all the regional languages which are entered in the Eighth Schedule as equal. For the development of those languages they should consider it as the responsibility of the Centre because what is happening now is, they are leaving to the States to develop the regional languages. No doubt States also have the same responsibility, but at the same time, Centre's responsibility cannot be ignored. You know, the funds of the States are very much limited. So, I would urge upon the Government that just as we are depending on the development of Hindi, we should also see that certain amounts are earmarked for the development of regional languages. For whose sake we enact laws? It is for the sake of the people and nearly most of them are ignorant and most of the people in the States know only regional languages. For whose sake we enact laws? It is for the sake of the people and nearly most of them are ignorant and most of the people in the States know only regional languages. So, it is absolutely necessary that there should be translation. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps they are going to take to see that all the Central laws are translated into regional laws. They should have this programme. At least priority must be given to such laws

which are common laws and which are very frequently used. For example, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code. They are used to a large extent. The hon. Minister is quite aware that nowadays most of the languages used in the courts are local languages. What happens is, the advocates have the English version, they do not have the Hindi version or regional language version. And they will argue on the basis of English version only. So, I would urge the Government to see one thing. This is the supreme legislature of our land. People must know what we are doing here. I know papers are there and they report the proceedings. But papers cannot reach every place immediately. At many places in the remote villages, it reaches after many days. Of course, we are glad that there is the national telecast of Hindi and English versions of parliamentary proceedings. I take this opportunity to urge the hon. Member Minister to take it up with the Information & Broadcasting Ministry that the parliamentary news or today's proceedings in Parliament are broadcast, telecast in the regional languages also. That is very necessary. Our people must know it because they are our master. It is they who send us here. They must know what we are doing here. I request the Minister to see that it is done.

So far as this particular amendment is concerned, it should not merely remain on paper. Government should not be content with a few notifications. That is not important. Everything, whatever is done in English must be translated into Hindi and other regional languages and there should be a separate Directorate for that, a separate office for that. You must see to it that they are translated into Hindi and other regional languages. So far as this Bill is concerned, though it looks very simple, I consider this is the most far-reaching and progressive Bill. The only thing is, it depend upon how the Government of India is going to implement it.

With these words, I support the Bill.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as Mr. Iyer has said, it is a very good and progressive measure and I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

In fact, Mr. Panigrahi's major amendment is, instead of "authorised translation", he wants the expression "authoritative text". It is a very good expression. But I feel this Bill deserves a lot of attention by the House and I am pained to see thin attendance here. We have to create an impression with our colleagues that the Bill which has been piloted by the Minister is a very important Bill and has far-reaching consequences. Therefore, we expected a very lively debate here.

Now, coming to the idea that I have to express on this Bill, I request the hon. Member to seriously think about the consequences of this measure and while replying to the debate, he must give an assurance—only a couple of people will speak on this Bill—that he must readily act upon the suggestions that we are making. We say that it is a good measure but I do not know whether the hon. Minister has gone into the consequences of this measure. It is a right measure, in the right direction but the implications are not visible in this Bill. For instance, I raise the question of promotion of Hindi and promotion of other languages. It is a misnomer to call these languages as regional languages. I reject this term because you are going against the very spirit of the Constitution. In the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, we have 14 languages and all those languages were called national languages, not one of them was called a regional language. The Constitution of India calls all those languages as national languages. All people belong to this nation, whatever may be their statehood. Therefore, this whole country expects a similar treatment to all the languages and all those languages are national languages spoken by Indians. All those languages are mother-

tongues for the people of respective areas. So, some of the luminaries in the field of literature or in the field of politics, they created a lot of confusion in this country. Therefore, national languages in this country, apart from Hindi, have not received a better deal. That is my complaint. But it is not against Hindi. We have accepted Hindi as Rashtrabasha. But we expect from the Government of India the promotion of all other languages. Tamil is a national language. Telegu is a national language. Kashmiri is a national language. Punjabi is a national language. So, when you call those languages as regional languages, you are actually I should not use the word 'defrauding the Constitution' — showing disrespect to the Constitution. Pick up the Constitution of India in hand and see what the Eighth Schedule indicates. Therefore, we accept Hindi as Rashtrabasha and as far as possible, we try to speak even though I do not know Hindi; I do not know how to write but I speak Hindi and I love Hindi. I can share my experience of Hindi with you because the kind of prose that is being produced in Hindi has no parallel in other languages. The Drama, Short-story, the Essays that are appearing in Hindi are of very high literary value. But you cannot turn a deaf ear to the demands that the people of other languages put forth before the Government. That has happened. For instance, I told you why and the kind of Hindi that is purposely spoken in this country. I heard the President's Address, the Hindi Translation and I could understand some of it. But I found on my right and on my left Members of Parliament, people of this country, asking me what is that word, what is this word. Mahatma Gandhi wanted you to implore of all the politicians of this country to call it Hindi as far as you are concerned. But for the people in India or for the world you should call it Hindustani which is understandable. He never liked the idea of Hindi and Urdu in an area of confrontation. But Hindustani is a language which is spoken and understood in every part of India.

But in the Radio and the Television and in the offices, you use Hindi which we do not understand. With the same country you want us to be blind; you want us to be mute people and only simply on-lookers. Why don't you simplify it? Your books in Hindi-I can assure you-are lying useless in the library. Commonman understands Hindi which is commonly used by the masses. But you are trying to make it Sanskritised, complicated and the Urduwallas are trying to make Urdu Persianised and we will reject that. You are complicating the situation by Sanskritising Hindi and therefore forcing us to say: this is not the kind of Hindi that we want. This is not the kind of Hindi that the Constitution of India gave us. You speak and write the kind of Hindi which we shall accept wholeheartedly. In another area, there is discrimination against the other national languages. I will never use the term 'regional languages'. When we come to the debate on Education, I will caution the Minister of Education at that time because you have created confusion by calling regional language. All other languages have received a raw-deal. That is not going to help. We must rise above party-politics for the sake of the greatness of this country. After all, this is a very important matter. On this matter depends the unity and integrity of India. All of us have to commit ourselves. We have to commit ourselves to the unity and integrity of the nation. It is, therefore, I say that we cannot have discrimination; we cannot continue an atmosphere of discrimination against the promotion of other languages. In one area, I told you, this has happened. For instances, this must be known to Mr. Panigrahi. I understand that you allot more than Rs. 6 crores for the promotion of Hindi.

18.00 hrs.

You promote a kind of Hindi which not even Babus, who have to run this administration, understand. They refuse to write in

Hindi; they refuse to understand in Hindi and they take assistance of English language. And you spend money like anything. My understanding is that six crores of rupees are spent for promotion of Hindi and nearly eight to nine crores of rupees are available for the promotion of all other national languages which is unjust. I don't think you are promoting unity of India through this. There are languages which are receiving a totally raw deal. For instance, Kashmiri which does not get any share. It is a very sensitive question. Ten years ago, one crore of rupees was allotted for translation of the Constitution of India and the Central Laws into Kashmiri. That was not released. It has never received a penny. The Urdu has received a raw deal. I am telling you that of crores, you are trying to promote Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu and so many languages. This is totally unjust. Thereby you cannot serve the purpose. This is a good measure. But you are not serving the purpose of even Hindi because other people who have got respect for their mother-tounge, you are promoting a kind of situation whereby even though they love Hindi, they respect Hindi as Rashtra Bhasha, they have a feeling...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Try to wind up.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have to continue for two to three minutes. I am trying to wind up or tomorrow I will speak. It is my subject. That would be better. I will give you a story of what happened in Russia and Pakistan.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue tomorrow.

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