

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

teaching of Sanskrit from the country. As you are aware, two seminars on 'Vedic Mathematics' were organised last year and we are pursuing it further. Similarly, the Ved Vidya Pratistan has also taken some steps in this direction. This institution is just growing and its activities will increase further in future. Apart from the items I mentioned in my reply, every year some other steps are also taken which help in promoting Sanskrit. We have all along been taking steps in this regard. last year, the hon. President invited Sanskrit scholars and gave away prizes to them. In case any Sanskrit scholar, after his retirement is facing difficulties due to poverty, the Government also gives him annual assistance and it has all along been doing so. We are also considering to introduce composite courses in other languages as in the case of Hindi and Sanskrit. So far as the number of marks is concerned, it does not make any difference whether it is 20, 60, 50 or 75 or a total of 100 or 150. We can consider it and take a decision.

So far as the policy of the Government is concerned, the Government is not at all against Sanskrit. We are waiting for the Supreme court's Verdict and till then the status quo would be maintained. We will implement the Supreme Court Verdict in this regard. Even after that if it is felt that something is still lacking, Parliament is the Supreme body. It can issue directions to the Government that it must do this and that work.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch and will reassemble at 2.20 p.m.

13.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at twenty three minutes past fourteen of
the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

(i) Need to replace the existing system of octroi by levying uniform surcharge.

SHRI NIHAL SINGH JAIN (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, local autonomous bodies, municipalities and town area committees collect revenue in the form of octroi tax to be levied on the items entering their respective areas. It has been long felt that due to wide disparities in the octroi rates at different places, it creates an obstruction in business. Besides, its realisation involves maximum administrative expenditure and also suffers from a demerit because major part of this tax is swindled by the employees. Transportation cost is also increased and it is also time consuming.

Keeping in view all these facts, the Traffic Development Council has recommended abolition of this tax and also suggested to the State Governments to replace this tax by levying uniform surcharge. The Central Government has urged the State Governments to implement the recommendation but the State Governments, excepting Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have not so far initiated any action in this regard. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Ministers of Transport and Urban Development should make joint efforts and advise the State Governments to take immediate action in this regard.

(ii) Need to open a Central Employment Exchange in Calcutta

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): Sir,