

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is unbecoming... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why should you do it? You are supposed to be one of the leaders of the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You could have allowed us.

MR. SPEAKER : Why should I allow you? I cannot go out of the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You give me anything and I will do it. Under the rules you ask me and I will do it. My hands are with you. But I cannot do like that, what you say, when you break the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Please hear us.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Very good, it has become clear.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You don't realise my position. You are 50 or 60 at a time and the lone figure is here. What am I supposed to do? Go mad?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Please allow us one by one.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I have given an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : No Adjournment Motion. I have not allowed it. I have not admitted it.

I have received intimation from the Government that three more Bills, namely,

Wild Life Amendment Bill, Environment Protection Bill and the Income-tax Bill are to be discussed and passed. I suggest the House may sit tomorrow also for the completion of the above business. I think we will do it,

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : A carnage has taken place at Arwal. You had given an assurance on the 23rd.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I replied to you yesterday. I am not yet ready for it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : You had given an assurance.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

Now, Calling Attention.

12.30 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[*Translation*]

Tardy implementation of constitutional provision in regard to use of Hindi as the official language of the Union

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The situation arising out of slow implementation of statutory provisions in connection with the use of Hindi as official language of the Union and action taken by the Government in this connection.”

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Sir, the House is aware that Hindi has been given the status of the official language of the Central Government under Article 343(1) of the Constitution. Parliament has also enacted the Official Language Act, 1963, incorporating important provisions for compliance by the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. The Official Language Rules, 1976, were formulated to further accelerate the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes.

To monitor the progress in the various Ministries, Departments and Public Undertakings, Committees have been formed at various levels. The Kendriya Hindi Samiti headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is the apex body which has from time to time been giving important guidelines regarding the implementation of the official language policy in the country. Another important Committee, as the Members are aware, is the Sansadiya Rajbhasha Samiti consisting of Members of this august House and also Members of the Rajya Sabha. This Committee has been visiting various Central Government offices to oversee the progress in general. Besides, Committees have also been formed in each of the Ministries, Departments and in Public Sector Undertakings which meet quarterly to review the progress from time to time.

I am happy to say that there has been a definite improvement in the implementation of the provisions of the Official Language Act. For example Section 3(3) of the official Language Act, 1963, lays down that all general orders should be bilingual. From the statistics available with us it is evident that while in 1983, 84.40 per cent general orders were issued bilingually this figure went upto 95.16% in 1985. Further, Rule 10(4) of the Official Language Rules, 1976 provides that offices where more than 80 per cent of the employees have acquired working knowledge in Hindi can be notified under the said Rules. In keeping with this, out of 65 Ministries and Departments, 62 have already

been notified. Besides till december, 1985 5,608 attached and subordinate offices have also been similarly notified under Rule 10(4). Directions have also been issued under Rule 8(4) specifying sections and subjects in these offices where work is now being done in Hindi only. Stress is being laid that more and more such offices should be similarly notified.

Members are aware that many Central Government employees did not have working knowledge of Hindi. The Department of Official Language is running 155 Centres all over the country to train such employees. During 1985 five Centres were opened at Imphal, Agartala, Aizawal, Kohima and Itanagar so as to provide at a least one Centre in each of these North-Eastern States. In 1985 more than 25,000 employees were trained in these Centres as compared to 22,000 in 1983. Progressively more than 5 lakh employees have so far been trained under the Hindi Teaching Scheme. Similar training is also being given to employees in Hindi typing and Stenography. To supplement the efforts of the Department, all Ministries and Departments have been requested to include Hindi as a subject in the various training institutes under their administrative control so that employees can learn the language as soon as they enter service.

Almost all manuals and codes in official use have been translated in Hindi through the Central Translation Bureau which has an annual capacity of translating 40,000 standard pages. The Central Translation Bureau also trains employees in the technique of translation and during 1985, the Bureau trained 208 employees as compared to 135 in 1983. The training course is of 3-months duration. However, keeping in view the growing demand for training, the Bureau has also started a 9-day crash course in which about 180 employees have been trained during 1985 at various important Centres in the country. Most of the Ministries have also brought out glossaries of technical terms to facilitate the progressive use of Hindi in their day to day work.

To oversee the implementation of the official language policy, besides the inspection conducted by the officers of the Official Language Department, Nagar

Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samitis have been formed in 71 Centres all over the country. These Samitis meet half-yearly and the representative of the various Departments and Public Sector Undertakings discuss the progress made in their respective Departments. Besides, the Commercial Banks have set up 12 separate Committees where they have a large concentration of Bank Branches to oversee the implementation in these commercial organisations.

To remove the hesitation of the employees to do nothing and drafting in Hindi, workshops are being organised in various Central Government offices on a regular basis. The number of workshops conducted during 1984-85 was 514 as compared to 94 only in 1982-83. Further a Technical Cell has also been set up to review the progress made in providing mechanical aids and also to impart training in the electronic equipment which is being produced bilingually both in the public sector and the private sector. The effort is to ensure that the mechanical equipment for official use does not lag behind so as to retard the growth of Hindi in official use.

The efforts of the Department of Official Language are being supplemented by the Department of Education and a number of private institutions all over the country. These private institutions are running correspondence courses also of which the Members are fully aware.

The House will appreciate that we are progressing in the right direction. However, the subject is a sensitive one and the policy of the Government has all along been to provide incentives and encouragement for accelerating the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes. Any other method, the Members will agree, is likely to prove counter-productive in the long run.

12.37 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the statement made by the hon. Home Minister on the

Calling Attention motion. I do not want to say much in this regard. I only wish to draw his attention to certain point and would request him to clarify them.

According to Part XVII, Article 343 to 351 of the Constitution of India, Hindi has been accepted as our official language with Devanagri Script and International and Indian numerals. Article 351 is very clear about the use of Hindi and the form it should take. It has also been mentioned that the vocabulary would be drawn primarily from Sanskrit and secondarily from other Indian languages. Some misconceptions have been spread about the official language, Hindi. It has, therefore, become necessary to remove them.

Firstly, it is said that Hindi cannot be used for official purposes without first developing it as a link language. I feel that without relating its brief history it would not be possible to explain fully the basic concepts of our Constitution. Sanskrit was once the language of the masses but it lost this position by the 12th century, and till the 19th century English would not have been the link language. Hence, during these seven hundred years the people travelling from Badrinath to Rameshwaram and from Dwaraka Puri to Jagannath Puri could not have used any other language except Hindi as a link language. It must be understood that for seven hundred years, Hindi had continued to serve as the link language of this country. We must know that the demand for making Hindi as our official or our national language came from the non-Hindi speaking people and not from the Hindi speaking people. It goes to the credit of Bengal which first accepted Hindi as the national language. In 1875 Keshav Chandra Sen and in 1878 Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and later Rabindranath Tagore, Raja Ram Mohan Ray and Subhash Chandra Bose had given a call for making Hindi as official language of the country. In 1875, Keshav Chandra Sen had said that we would not be able to bring about national unity till Hindi was accepted as the official language. In 1878, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee had written in a column in his 'Banga Darshan' that if we all wanted to unite and develop our country then we had to accept Hindi. Subhash Chandra Bose had said in his welcome address on the occasion of

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Calcutta Congress Session that Bengal was proud of the fact that it had encouraged and somewhat contributed in making Hindi into a national language. I want to submit that without the contribution of the Great Acharyas of the South, Hindi, would have been devoid of what it has today. The propounders of Radha-Krishna, Sita-Ram, Kabir and Tulsi, 'Bhakti' cult were ten Acharyas from the South. Who doesn't know that Shri Vallabhacharya belonged to South. The literature on the concept of worship of Shri Radha-Krishna and 'Vaishnava Bhakti' is the contribution of South India. The contribution to Hindi literature in the 16th century in the form of 'Advaita' philosophy by Shri Ramanujacharya, his disciple Shri Ramanda and the latter's disciple Sant Kabir was the contribution of the Acharyas from the South. We must bear in mind the ideologies of Ramanujacharya, Vallabhacharya, Nimbakacharya and Madhavacharya, the four great Acharyas from South India. But even before them, Acharya Shankara who was born at Kalri in Kerala established religious and cultural unity in the country. Whatever he had propounded in the name of Advaita Philosophy in the eighth century, is present in Hindi literature. I want to submit that Hindi in the form of link language has been attracting the attention of the country for the past eight hundred years and Bengal which first began the work of building Modern India had mooted Hindi as the national language. You would be pleasantly surprised to know that Bengal had first given the leadership in this direction and then it was followed by the Modern Indian State of Maharashtra. The leaders like Lokmanya Tilak had given their support to Hindi. Who is not acquainted with the names of Mahatma Gandhi, Ranade, Tilak who pleaded for making Hindi as the National language. In the light of voices of resentment voiced today against Hindi I am inclined to ask as to who had given Hindi the status of official language in the Constitution of India. It was Dr. Gopala Swami Ayyangar of Tamil Nadu who had got the Part XVII of the Indian Constitution adopted and he had received full support of the members from the non-Hindi speaking areas. In the Constituent Assembly, sanskritised Hindi with its Devanagri

script got less support from the representatives of the Hindi speaking areas. People are not aware of the fact that several members from North India had voted in favour of Hindustani and the members from all non-Hindi speaking areas of the whole of South India had voted in favour of Hindi with Devanagri Script. It was only then that Hindi with its Devanagri script was accepted in the Constitution of India. You would also be surprised to know that once Shri K. Hanumanthaiya had told Pt. Nehru in the Parliament that the kind of Hindi language he spoke was not understood by them and South India would not accept it. But the kind of Hindi that Shri Prakashvir Shastri spoke would always be acceptable to the South. As regards its genius and form, I would like to trace the history of Hindi Prose today so that people would know the origin of the prose of Hindi which is our official language. Modern Hindi prose had originated in Telangana in Andhra Pradesh and the Muslim writers had promoted it. Modern Hindi prose which is called 'Decani Hindi' was created by the Muslim writers and the Modern Hindi prose that we have accepted today had also been started by Shri Insha Allah Khan Saheb. He has clearly mentioned in 'Rani Ketaki ki Kahani' that "Hindi Chhūt, aur koi bhi boli ki na put". In this way he created and gave a certain form to the Hindi language and the same Hindi became our national language. Hindi has three positions. It is a mother tongue, it is a national language and it is an official language. As regards its use as a national language or a link language millions of people of the country are using it as such and will continue to do so. As mother tongue, Hindi has various forms, namely Avadhi, Brijabhasha, Bundeli etc. But as regards the use of Hindi as the official language, it is the responsibility of the Government to take a decision and they have to be guided by the provisions included in part XVIII, Articles 343 to 351 of our Constitution. The Government has to work accordingly. But they have been pleading time and again that Hindi has to be developed first as a link language. But I want to submit that crores of people of Indian use it and will use it as a language. Suppose a truck driver and his cleaner

start with their truck from Amritsar and go upto Cochin. Which language would they use for the purpose of communication? There is no need to till that. Can any other language except Hindi serve the purpose of a link language for crores of people travelling from one corner of the country to another?

I want to say one thing more. The contribution of the Muslims have been more than that of the Hindi speaking people. It cannot be that one may read Tulsidas and can do without reading Abdul Rahim Khan Khana or Kabir; one may read Surdas but can do without reading Raskhan, he may read Ghananand, Bihari but can do without reading Sheikh Alam and Jayasi. The constituency from which our respected Prime Minister has been winning the elections is the birth place of Jayasi. Jayasi and written 'Padmavat' forty years before Tulsi wrote Ramcharitmanas and 'chopai' and 'doha' style that Tulsidas had used in 'Ramcharitmanas' was derived from the concept the Muslim writer Jayasi had propounded. When the Hindi and Urdu speaking people had begun quarelling among themselves over the language then Akbar Allahabadi had said: "But ka jo madda ho, Hindi ka hami kyon na ho". He had addressed the two warring groups like this.

"We Urdu Ko Arabi kyon no Kahen, we Hindi Ko bhasha kyon na Kahen, Garis se flak ka dil bahle, Hum log tamasha kyon na karen".

He snubbed both the people who used arabic urdu and those used sanskritised Hindi and thus made both the language difficult.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is so sensitive that it must be understood in its proper perspective. As I have said if I do not give a brief historical background of Hindi it will create some problem. Mainly, the Muslims and people from non-Hindi speaking areas are responsible for the evolution of Hindi. I am pained when concocted things are propagated about the language that has been given the status of official language in the Constitution of India. That is why I made a reference of the proceeding of the Constituent Assembly.

Hindi was adopted as the national Language through a unanimous decision. The entire proceedings of the Constituent Assembly are available in the Parliament Library and the people do not know about it. The Congress Party had decided unanimously about Hindi and Hindustani but the Constituent Assembly had unanimously decided that Hindi would be the official language of the Union. There was no conflict, no opposition and no imposition. Today, all these facts are being distorted. Things are being complicated. I have a complaint against the government that some persons without understanding the facts, express their views and say that Hindi would not be imposed on any one. I am sorry to say when entire Constitution is not treated as imposed then how can part XVII of it be construed as imposed? How do they say that Hindi would not be forced or imposed on any one? When out of 22 parts of the Constitution 21 are effective how do you say that the remaining one would not be imposed? If the Constitution is treated as imposed then the official language Hindi is also imposed. But as I have stated during the discussion on Muslim Women Bill, it has been a tradition of our Congress Party not to impose anything on the strength of majority and we will not do it even now. There is a clear direction in the Constitution that a Commission shall be constituted after five year but it was done after nine years. These commissions were to be constituted in 1955, 1960 and 1965 respectively but out of these only one commission was constituted and it submitted its report in 1963. The remaining two Commissions which were to be set up in 1960 and 1965 were not constituted. The Constitution became effective and Hindi became the official language. The non-Hindi speaking states raised a voice that they had not been able to acquire the working knowledge of Hindi in the fifteen years' period. So, in 1963 our respected Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru got the official Language Bill passed in this House because there is a clear direction in the Constitution that after fifteen years, Hindi will become the official language of the country with effect from 26th January, 1965. So, an amendment was made that English language will also continue as official language along with Hindi. After this decision of 1963, one more amendment was made in 1968.

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In 1976 our Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, whom I miss very much even today, gave some clear directions about the official language policy. An Act was passed which had made us happy because it left no room for any person to complain anything. She divided various State of the country into three groups and the government was given clear directions that with the States in group 'A' which comprises of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territories etc., Hindi is speaking areas, all the official correspondence would be done in Hindi only. With the 'B' group States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, Orissa, etc. the correspondence would be done in Hindi if they so desired and with the group 'C' States which comprises of the remaining States of India, the correspondence would be done in Hindi as and when they agree for it and if any communication from other States or the Centre is sent to them the English translation thereof would be attached. The second direction was that if a communication in English is sent to Hindi speaking States, then its translation in Hindi would also be sent with it. But today the situation is totally reverse. The position today is that the entire correspondence is done in English only. Then, how does the hon. Minister say that all the provisions of the constitution are being followed. When there is constitutional provision that correspondence with Hindi speaking states should be in Hindi then why the centre in sending communications to them in English only? And due to this policy of the Central Government, these states are also compelled to send communications in English. Otherwise, atleast in Hindi speaking states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Hindi should be the lone official language and all work should be done in Hindi. But centre sends communications to them in English because of difference in their practice and precept. There are clear official directions for doing office work in bilingual form but more than half of that work is done in one language only. The people like us who can assert may get Hindi versions but there is no denying the fact that the Hindi journalists never get any report, statement and press material etc. in Hindi Government have reduced Hindi to the status of a second

class language. We do not want the people, who do not favour Hindi to work in Hindi, but why English is imposed on the people who want to work in Hindi? All this has been clearly mentioned in the provisions of the Act of 1976 but even after ten years, the position is completely reverse. The pace set by Indiraji in this regard has been changed completely. I want Government to take correction measures. Here, I want to make one thing very clear. If Government fail to give Hindi its due place, then, do not forget that there are about sixty crore people who consider Hindi as official language and that it is the mother tongue of about 40-45 crore people. We do not want that Hindi should be imposed on the strength of majority but why the people who want to work in Hindi should not be allowed to do so? It is said that technical ...*(Interruptions)*...

[*English*]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : I am on a point of order. It is not a majority language. He is giving wrong information.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I won't allow point of order during Calling Attention. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, much resentment was expressed over this point. But I would advise them to read "Abhibhashayan aur Hindi" by Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and "Survey of Indian Languages", by Dr. Grierson, read Picard who used to write in London and read Greaves. Then they will come to know what has been said in Hindi. I cannot say about the number. What I want to say is that maximum work about Hindi has been done in the south.

Who can deny that in 1918 Gandhiji established Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in Madras. Gandhiji's son Dev Dass and Rajaji's daughter promoted Hindi there. Moturi Satyanarayan, Harihar Sharma and other people expounded the cause of Hindi. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Let him not give wrong information. He is giving wrong information. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing others to speak. Please take your seats. I do not allow others to speak. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, again same thing is being repeated. In 1937, when Rajaji, was the Chief Minister there, at that time Hindi.....(*Interruptions*) those opposing Hindi were sent to jails by the same Rajagopalachariji, and he is saying that a man works according to political expediency. I do not want to go into those things. They should give up such an approach. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : The same Rajaji opposed Hindi. He is giving wrong information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not want others to speak. Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : He should read authoritative works and go through authentic records. But I do not want to go into that controversy. I would only urge upon the Home Minister to ensure compliance of original constitutional provisions and those incorporated in 1963, 1965 and 1968.

13.00 hrs.

I want to ask the Government as to why a person who had submitted his thesis in Hindi had to seek the intervention of our Hon. Prime Minister for getting his thesis accepted. After that incident a policy was adopted to accept thesis not only in Hindi but in all the national languages. But the thesis of Amrinder Singh has not been accepted so far. The I.I.T. should under the

chairmanship of Union Education Minister adopt a resolution providing for acceptance of thesis in all Indian national languages. Who can do this work except the Government ?

About two lakh and eighty two thousand boys and girls appear in the Hindi examination of the Dakshin Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras every year. Is this also wrong information ? If Hindi had not been popularised in south India then how would two lakh and seventy five thousand children appear in the Hindi examination ? I am proud to say that all the officers from south India who come to serve in north India, all those high ranking officers, do better work in and have greater knowledge of Hindi than the officers from Hindi speaking areas. Today we see that people like Shri Narasimha Rao, Shri Shankaranand, Shri Shiv Shankar and other leaders from South speak better Hindi than the persons from Hindi speaking areas. There is no quarrel. There is no compulsion. (*Interruptions*) He may speak any thing in protest. We respect Tamil. I will say this much that if they can accept Tamil instead of Hindi as the official language then it is very good. Bring a bill to this effect in this House which is competent to legislate on it. If India even today accepts any language other than Hindi as official language we all will welcome and most humbly accept the same.

I want to say that as long as Hindi is the official language, we should not treat it in the manner we are treating today.

13.02 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

The position mentioned by the hon. Home Minister in his answer is not a reality. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to the fact that persons nominated in Official Language Committee and other Hindi Committees do not have adequate knowledge of Hindi and its tradition. So, no work about Hindi is done there. Government should appoint and seek the cooperation of persons having wide knowledge of Hindi. The statement of the Home Minister was very ordinary, only paper work. I would like to know whether those who have acquired the knowledge of

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Hindi after passing Pragma and Prabodh examinations work in Hindi. If even after acquiring Hindi knowledge the work is done in English only, when will Hindi come? If Hindi is not allowed to become the link language, the medium of instructions and the working language, then regionalism will continue to increase. The language of the Union is not being encouraged. You go to Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chaturvedi, please wait for a minute.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I propose that we do not have lunch-break today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the consensus of the House ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So it is agreed to. We will have no lunch-break today.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Sir, I would have concluded my speech much earlier but some of my colleagues have taken my time. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to ensure strict compliance of the provisions contained in Part XVII, Article 343 to 351 of the constitution and amendments and rules made thereunder from time to time. If Government ensures their compliance, not only crores of people will be happy but the entire country will appreciate it.

I do not agree that Hindi is a language of Hindi speaking people only. I also do not agree that Hindi has its existence without Muslims and non-Hindi speaking people. Instead, its very existence is due to those people. Those who do not accept Hindi on political grounds, would be posing a threat to the country. So, please do not allow that dangerous situation to arise. Government should sincerely and honestly ensure the implementation of the provisions, relating to Hindi included in the constitution.

[English]

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, I want to point out one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : During Calling Attention there is no point of order.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : He has said that people who are not speaking in Hindi, they are going to divide the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is something to be removed it will be removed.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the aim of this Calling Attention Motion is not mere propagation to promote Hindi in a big way. The main aim of this motion is to draw Government's attention to the provisions of the constitution of which we have taken oath,—which make Hindi country's official language without being thrust upon anyone and in the implementation of which the Government is not showing as much concern as it is expected to show. This does not aim at initiating any debate between Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking people over Hindi.

I thank the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs for his statement. We appreciate the efforts being made to make Hindi the official language of the Union and the various committees that have been constituted under the relevant rules for the purpose. But so far as its implementation aspect is concerned, everytime and at every stage it is seen that the progress in the implementation is not as much as it should have been. On several occasions, this issue has been raised in Lok Sabha as well as in Rajya Sabha and everytime it is said that the steps would be taken to make Hindi official language of the Union as soon as possible by implementing the three language formula.

Yesterday, one of our hon. Members from South India, while speaking on the Education Policy, had also stressed the need to encourage Hindi not only as an official language, but as a link language also which would help maintain the Unity of the

country.

(*Interruptions*)**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him speak. He is on his legs

(*Interruptions*)**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever they said will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)**

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever they are saying will not go on record.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of my friends said that Tamil is the best language I also say that Tamil is the best language but it is not a Hindi versus Tamil football match being organised through this Calling Attention Motion. This Motion is regarding the constitutional obligations of the Government for making Hindi official language of this Union.

Sir, I would request my colleagues not to interrupt me during my speech. We are giving information regarding the official language or the link language. There is a provision in the Constitution that Hindi shall be the official language of the country. So, we want to get it implemented. Our Government has assured that Hindi would not be imposed on any one and that it would be made official language only when non-Hindi speaking people accept it and till then English would continue to be used as an associate language. Therefore, I request the hon. Members not to interrupt me.

Today, we are much concerned about our national unity. I have seen during my

26 years service of Indian Army that a soldier from South India or from North India becomes fluent in Hindi after six months training. The soldiers from South India acquire as much knowledge of Hindi as we North Indians have.

So far as the question of speaking and understanding of Hindi is concerned, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Hindi should be used as a symbol of National Unity and to strengthen the national unity. We love all the languages whether Hindi, Tamil, Kannad, Gujrati, etc., as we love our mother tongue.

So far as the question of making Hindi as official language is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Government to create a favourable atmosphere so that all people may willingly accept it. From the Hindi words being used in our offices, it would appear that some times we make fun of it. Those words are so difficult that even we cannot understand them. Therefore, I would request that simple words should be used in Hindi to encourage all people to adopt it and it should not be made a Hindi versus English competition. Besides, the statement of hon. Home Minister, it is necessary that we should be given assurance on the above raised points.

In the end, I would like to say that Hindi is respected as much in South India as in North, but some political elements have dragged this issue into political arena.
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You cannot make an allegation like this.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : It is not an allegation against anybody. (*Interruptions*) What should I say in this House is my supreme freedom. You have not to tell me that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : He should not politicise the issue, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : He ought not to have spoken all that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is hurting you ? Sit down please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : What I want to say is that dragging of the language issue into political arena is not beneficial to any one. I hope after listening my point, the hon. Members who had lost their temper would cool down. I want that we should make efforts to make Hindi official language through these hon. Members so that they may also make as much efforts for the National Unity as we do.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not repeat the points that have already been mentioned by Shri Nareshji and Ajayji on the Calling Attention motion that is being discussed in this august House. The points put forth by them are so sound that there is no need to supplement them.

I would like to submit a few small matters before the Government. Hindi has no rivalry with any other language. Some of our friends have the misconception of Hindi being imposed on them. Can fragrance be imposed on anybody ? Is sky imposed on anyone ? Can earth be thrust on anybody ? The same is true of languages, whether it is Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Kashmiri, Dogari, Malavi, Marathi or Bengali all of them spread fragrance. They are the very image of nations soul. It will not be imposed on anyone. The question of imposing it does not arise at all and why should we impose it ? It is not at all necessary to impose a thing which is already ingrained in ourselves in our blood and in our tradition.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : It is not the question of flavour or fragrance, Sir... (*Interruptions*) Your argument is totally wrong. Tamil is the richest language and Sanskrit is the mother of all languages... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : He is not saying anything wrong. What

wrong has he committed ? He is praising all languages.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Before I proceed further, I would like to give a piece of information to the House in one sentence. I am the person who forced my son to study Tamil in Madras for seven years and only after that he studied other languages. If they say that Tamil is their language they are mistaken. I would like to remind them that my children also speak Tamil and it is their language as well. I have the courage to say this because my son stayed there for seven years. I would like to submit that if we do not allow the fragrance of languages to spread we would be doing great disservice to the nation.

Mr. Chairman Sir, for how long can you stop the advent of Hindi. All of us know, the entire country knows it and all the four directions are aware that it is the English and no other language which will be exterminated from this country. Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi all native languages have to stay here for ever because all of them are Indian languages. When some of my friends take up the cause of English... (*Interruptions*)... When they try to plead for its retention, it does not pain me. This is mere sentimentalism which will die with the passing of time.

Sir, I wanted to submit that it was here, in the Constituent Assembly 30 to 40 years ago that our great leaders signed on the Hindi version of Constitution and it is an official record now. All the great leaders signed in Hindi on that copy of the Constitution, irrespective of the State to which they belonged. Anybody can have a look at that national document. It is our legacy. Even today the Hindi version of the Constitution is not recognised in the Supreme Court or the High Court. I would like to submit to the hon. Home Minister that it was for the Government to accept the Hindi version and there was no need for translation. The Government should have brought a Bill in this regard.

I will conclude after making one or two submissions. I, myself being a member of

the third committee on official language would like to submit that 50 per cent of typewriters that are purchased by the Government should be Hindi typewriters. Why are these not purchased? This has been provided in the rules. The typewriters can be converted into Hindi typewriters by changing the key board. We have been given this repeatedly in writing but it is never implemented. Efforts should be made to implement them.

Today, I am speaking on a day which is very important, 7th May is the birthday of the great poet Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore and it is today that the issue of Hindi has been raised in this House. We are proud not because we belong to Hindi speaking area but because we are Indians. I am saying this because for the first time in the history of eighth Lok Sabha the person who gave an opportunity to the Hon. Prime Minister to speak in Hindi was Shri Sayeed from Lakshdweep. At that time the Hon. Prime Minister said that it was for the first time he was speaking in Hindi. We cannot stop the advent of Hindi. This is my firm conviction. Even Madam Thatcher and Elizabeth cannot stop it. Hindi will replace English. An Hon. Member said that there is no grammer in Hindi. I invite him to my house and my son will speak about Hindi Grammer in Tamil language. He will tell him in Tamil that Hindi Grammer has been written by Kamta Babu, Kishori Das Vajpayee and Ambika Prasad Vajpayee. I would like to inform them that two Englishmen, Mr. Kellar and Mr. Nesfield have also written Hindi Grammer books and Mr. Kellar's Grammer is very popular. If our friends are not aware of it I cannot help. What is the dispute between them and us? I would like to submit to the Government and also to Rajivji to bring about an amendment in the Constitution and make Tamil the national language of our country. We will accept it. But I dare say, that we will never accept English. We were not opposed to Tamil, Gujarat, Kannada or any other language. Only that language will flourish in our country which is deeprooted in our soil. No foreign language will flourish here. That is the only point. We are not opposed to any thing else. I do not use bitter language.

I would take my seat after submitting

one more point. People say that Hindi is an unintelligible language. In this context I want to expose a conspiracy and inform the hon. Home Minister about it. This conspiracy is being hatched in the rooms of his Secretariat. Whether this conspiracy is against Hindi or not is a separate thing. But this conspiracy is against the very soul of India. I am giving you this information. Kindly save Hindi from this conspiracy. The conspiracy which I am referring to is about Hindi words being coined in his department. They are coining such difficult words as would require the help of English to understand them. So, Hindi should be saved from this conspiracy. Hindi is very simple like the milk of the mother. The nature has made the mother's milk such that it does not need water and fat to be added to it. But a conspiracy is being hatched in the Secretariat to make Hindi difficult. Hindi should be saved from this conspiracy.

Secondly, wrong Hindi words are being printed and then propagated. I would demand through this House that this sort of things should be checked. We shall fight this battle in the society. If taking birth had been in my power, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I tell you sincerely, if God had asked me my wish where I would like to be born, I would have said that I would like to be born in the land of Subramaniam Bharati, in Tamil Nadu. I myself would have said this to the God. But I have been born in the Hindi speaking area, Mr. Kolandaivelu, I would like to say through the House that it is not my sin. It is not in my hand. But it is the kind grace of God that we have been born in India. We should all try to be true Indians. I would like to call upon all of you through this august House to find a solution in Hindi for the demotion of water tight compartments being raised of the basis on the languages. Probably Hindi may help all of us. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I give this right to my hon. friend (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I give the right to my friend to give me in the next generation in his house (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will take many more births. Please resume your seat. Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the intension behind the Calling Attention Motion under discussion was not to raise a wall between any two languages. It is aimed to make appraisal how far the provisions incorporated in the constitution on the 14th September, 1949 that Hindi shall be the Official Language, have been implemented. A number of commissions and Committees have been constituted for this purpose which have either not submitted their report or if submitted have said that form of Hindi is not correct and it has not where been used as Official Language. I would like to quote from a report :

[*English*]

"The Central Official Language Implementation Committee regretted that some Ministries and Departments were not implementing the Official language Act in letter and spirit and targets fixed under various items of the annual programme had not been achieved for the last few years".

[*Translation*]

What I want to say is that unless we make Hindi the Official Language in the whole country and make it a another tongue of the country, we will not be able to unite the people. We give slogan of unity in the country but unless we adopt Hindi as the medium of instruction, we can not succeed in our effort to bind the country in one thread. This is very essential. If any north Indian goes to South, he cannot converse in Hindi there. What is the reason that an Indian living in one corner of the country can not converse in Hindi with another person living in other corner of the country ?

MR CHAIRMAN : Everywhere, there can be talks in Hindi. There is no place where you cannot converse in Hindi, you can speak in Hindi in every city of the South. I have had conversation in Hindi everywhere.

[*English*]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You cannot speak in Madras.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have spoken in Madras in Hindi in many places. You do not know about Madras.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What are the reasons that the Commission and the Committees set up have not submitted their reports. Why has Hindi not been propagated widely consistent with the provisions incorporated in the constitution. Why Hindi is not taught to the students in schools ? Why is Hindi not propagated from the very beginning so that we may not face difficulty later on in using it as Official Language ? In every country of the world they use their own language. Soviet Russia is a big country. There everyone understands Russian. Similarly Hindi should be propagated in every corner of the country. I would like to know what are the reports of the Commission set up for the purpose.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. learned Chairman, Sir...

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, he knows Telugu. He should speak in Telugu.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Koncham, Koncham Telugu Vostonti.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, Koncham, Koncham is a Tamil word.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you should appreciate it.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Next time, I will try to speak in Telugu.

[*Traslation*]

Mr. Chairman Sir...

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Southern regional languages, viz. Tamil,

Telugu, Kannada should be taught as second language in Northern universities. This will help in bringing about national integration. The policy about which you are talking... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Policy on Education is being discussed. You may give your suggestions in the discussion of Education Policy. Shri Harish Rawat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject matter of today's Calling attention motion does not aim at giving publicity to a particular language and to think of measures to impose it. Its only aim is to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the indifference and failure in implementing the provisions of the constitution and of the Official languages Act passed by this august House. The entire House will agree that we are not sorry for the fact that Government is not taking rapid steps towards implementing the Official Languages Act because we understand the difficulties and problems being faced by Government in this regard. We know very well that in a multi-lingual nation like India, if we make the people feel that a language is being imposed on them, it will certainly weaken the national unity. But at the same time we shall have to see whether, in the guise of this, we are encouraging English mentality. We are sorry to see today that people in Government offices, inside and outside this House, have become the slaves of English mentality. Official Languages Act is not implemented on the pretext of technicalities and sometime by saying that it will hurt the sentiments of the people. These people have vested interests in not implementing it. They want to continue to exploit the people in the country in the guise of English whose interests are linked with English mentality. Therefore, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister that our first effort should be to remove the pro-English mentality in Government offices particularly among high officials. They should be prevented from thrusting their pro-English perception upon others.

Official Languages Act, 1963 clearly indicates the division of Central Government Offices situated in various states of the

country in different categories. Some offices are in 'A' category some in 'B' and the rest are in 'C' category. So, I want to ask you : Is there any machinery to monitor whether or not the offices situated in different areas are complying with the provisions of Official Languages in letter and spirit? If employees of the offices of 'A' states are not doing as much correspondence in a particular language as they are supposed to do, then, what efforts are being made to impart them the knowledge of the particular languages to enable them to acquire certain percentage of working knowledge of it? Is there any machinery for the purpose and do the Government receive any information in this regard? Is there any provision for taking punitive action against those employee and heads of offices who are not complying with these provisions? Government do not have any punitive provision as at present. If somebody is really doing good job in implementing the provisions of official language Act, he is given a pat simply by awarding a certificate and if someone is not complying with the provisions there is no provision to punish him. His Ministry works only as a coordinating body It is not in a position to go beyond this.

Secondly, there are Hindi Advisory Committees for different Ministries and Departments. I am sorry to that many Ministries do not hold these meetings as per schedule. He has said in his reply that meetings are held quarterly but I want to tell him clearly that hardly is there a Ministry or Department which holds requisite number of meetings. The situation of implementing the provision of Official Language Act is even worse in the subordinate offices under various Ministries and Departments. I would request that such advisory committees should not only be formed at the top level, but should also be set up in all the departments and subordinate offices. He should ensure that their meetings are held as scheduled. Presently, all the public undertakings are totally obsessed with English mentality. Leave other things apart, they have even christened themselves with English names like I.T.D.C., Air-India and soon they should be asked to have their names in any Indian Language. I do not ask them to go for Hindi names. They might adopt any of the Indian Languages for the purpose. We have many

[Shri Harish Rawat]

beautiful languages. They may adopt any one of them. There should be some provisions for imparting training to those employees who have not acquired Hindi knowledge so far. The hon. Minister has said in his answer that 155 Hindi Training Centres are in operation all over India. In a country like India, where the number of offices runs into thousands, where the number of public undertaking only is 155, these 155 centres are not sufficient to impart Hindi Training to all the employees. We must have more number of such centres. How many employees have so far been imparted training in Hindi? The number which he has stated is not only insufficient but ridiculous also. He should go deep into this matter and make proper arrangements for training in Hindi. Here issuing a circular will not do. Government must give adequate incentives. At present, Certificates are issued to the Non-Hindi speaking employees. If a Tamil speaking employees wishes to learn Hindi and intends to get training and he gets training in typewriting within the stipulated time and acquires working knowledge of Hindi, what incentives does he get? He gets a paltry sum of Rs. 20-25. It won't do. What steps are being taken to increase this amount? I would also request that those Hindi speaking persons who work in Madras and acquire working knowledge of Tamil should be given similar incentive.

One thing more. My colleagues have raised a point about typewriters. I would like to inform him that C.M.C. has developed a computer named 'Lipi', which is multi-lingual. This computers is being purchased by many Ministries. May I know how many Ministries have so far purchased multi-lingual computers. I do not think that there is any Department which has purchased a multilingual computer. Leave them aside. Even the Home Ministry, which has a responsibility to get the provisions of official language implemented has not purchased a multi-lingual computer so far. The teleprinters are also not multi-lingual. The Hindustan Teleprinters has developed such teleprinters. He must took into this also.

Now, I would like to draw his attention

towards Hindi Translation Bureau, where the conditions are very bad.

13.40 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

It is so understaffed that it takes 3 to 4 months to translate a general order. Kindly see that under that cover, the people who are against the implementation of the provisions of the Official Language are not benefited. The strength of competent translators, the translators who can translate the technical subjects should be increased in the Hindi Translation Bureau. In the end, I would like to say that we shall not be able to enforce the provisions of the Official Language Act till we make it a public movement. I do not mean that Public movement in which some people raise slogans, banners in support or in opposition of some particular language. What I want to say is that, to enforce provisions of official language Act to popularise Hindi, the Government will have to make necessary arrangements. At the movement, Government can take several steps in this regard. Hindi Translators, Hindi Stenographers and Hindi Officers, wherever required, should be appointed. In majority of Ministries and Departments, though posts have been sanctioned, they cannot be filled because of the ban imposed by the finance Ministry. I would urge upon him to approach the Finance Ministry to remove this ban because filling of these posts is a statutory obligation under the Constitution and the economy drive should not come in the way of fulfilling these posts.

Lastly, I would like to assure my friends that no one amongst us wants to hurt their feelings or of those who speaks other languages. We are against pro-English mentality. I think that till pro-English mentality is not removed none of the languages can progress.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Sir, the Calling Attention Motion had a very limited scope,

that is, how to use the language in official work according to the language policy of the Central Government; what is the status of Hindi in that policy and whether the provisions and orders regarding Hindi are being implemented or not. This Motion had been moved to draw attention towards these aspects. For this, I am grateful to the hon. Members.

Sir, there has been some straying here which should not have been since Hindi has a special place in our national life. During the days of freedom struggle Hindi got an important place and the eminent persons and litterateurs from almost all the States recognised the vital role of Hindi. They expressed their firm views that the feelings of nationalism could be spread through Hindi.

Then came the present phase. Why did it come, there is no need to go into that, but at present the situation is that Hindi and English both languages will continue to be used for quite a long time. It is a matter for long discussion as to when this phase, through which we are passing today, will come to an end. But the Department is quite vigilant and doing a lot of work as to how the use of Hindi should be increased in the official work keeping in view the present phase.

There is no question of imposing Hindi on anyone because the provisions in the Constitution, in the rules and laws are very clear. The important thing is how to further this work. As Shri Rawat has said that the mental pressure of English is so much on us that till we do not remove it from our education system, from our social life, neither Hindi will progress nor any regional language will progress. How to remove this pressure is a wide question. What should be the place of Hindi in education system, what should be its place in technical education, all these questions are interconnected. Therefore, the biggest hindrance in what the Government wants to do *i.e.* how the use of Hindi should be increased in the administrative work, is that we are working in a limited circle and the atmosphere obtaining in the country is somewhat different. Therefore, unless we solve this vital question, things will not improve. Actually, sometimes our efforts

look quite artificial, To impart training to the employees, to give incentives to them for using Hindi, and if they do not use Hindi, then what sort of punishment should be given to them, all these things will not help in the promotion of any language, be it administrative language or any other language. Unless this problem is solved and the attitude towards Hindi and other Indian languages is changed the shortcomings pointed out by the hon. Members, will perhaps continue. However, despite the figures given in my statement and the report of the official language Committee which gives details as to how the work is progressing, I concede that we have still to do much. The position of Hindi is in no way satisfactory. But one thing is there. The progress is being made. The hon. Members have raised this discussion in this House through the Calling Attention Motion. They are themselves members of the Committees formed for the purpose. If they make efforts, I think our officers will also become vigilant and everything will go on smoothly.

Many things were said about typewriters computers and teleprinters, it is our definite policy that computers teleprinters, etc. should be bilingual. These devices have been introduced in our country recently and we have started manufacturing them. We have taken a decision that these should be bilingual and should be manufactured in different languages so that more and more languages are used. It is feared that if they are manufactured only in English then no one knows when teleprinters and computers in other languages will be manufactured. Therefore, we have made a definite policy in this regard and we are working on that basis.

So far as training scheme is concerned, it is true that we do not have the requisite number of centres. There are 514 centres and, in addition, many voluntary agencies are helping us in this work and we are of the definite view that not only official agencies but the voluntary agencies too have done commendable job. A mention of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Samiti has been made. During the last few years it has done very good work in promoting Hindi and taking it to the common man. We want to seek their assistance in our work

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

also. It is our view that we should involve more and more such agencies in our training programme so that our employees acquire more knowledge of Hindi.

About terminology it was said that there is artificiality in it and that there is a conspiracy behind it. I do not think so but the terminology formulated by the terminology commission of the education Ministry consists of not only Sanskrit words but words from regional languages also. This in fact is the policy. It is a matter of happiness that the situation has improved and it will further improve in future. One aspect of the Constitutional obligation is that with the help of good literature of all the languages of the country and by taking words from them a new glossary should be prepared. That will of course be in Devnagari script. This will in real sense, be service to Hindi and the nation. We want to work on this basis. That will help some languages to come closer and they will be better understood. I think such a glossary will be more practical and intelligible. The people of non-Hindi speaking areas will also be able to understand it. We shall follow it because it is a very good suggestion of the hon. Members. I once again would like to say that there are certain deficiencies in the implementation aspect. I have given detailed informations in my statement regarding various provisions made and committees constituted. The Central Hindi Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Every department has its own committee. In various metropolitan cities committees have been set up from administrative point of view. People meet there and discuss ways and means for encouraging the use of Hindi in Government Offices. I would like to assure the hon. Members that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Does it not mean that you are imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : If some one had to be annoyed, it was we...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PARTAP BHANU SHARMA : Please try to learn Hindi and we will try to learn Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order Please.
(Interruptions). Nothing will go on record.
(Interruptions) Minister may conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I have said in the beginning that there was no question of imposing Hindi. However, we will see that the status given to Hindi in the Constitution and in the laws and rules made thereunder is strengthened and how best we can implement the constitutional provisions in this respect. The hon. Members who says that Hindi is being imposed on them should bear in mind the provisions made in the constitution and in rules and regulations. We shall give whatever encouragement is possible while working under these provisions.

13 52 hrs.

WILD LIFE (PROTECTION)
AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.