

gas for power projects at Utaran, Wanakbori, Pipavav, Gandhinagar, Sinor etc.

(c) 7.55 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to power projects in Gujarat.

12. 00 hrs.

Re: Use of Indian Languages as Medium of Examinations in UPSC

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to raise an important matter.

The Government has been openly violating the Resolutions passed by Parliament. Even the Directives issued by the President are not being implemented. On 13 December, 1993, when my friend Shri Sharad Yadav raised the question of using Indian languages as medium of UPSC examinations, you had intervened and said that:-

[English]

"Both the Houses have passed the Resolution; it means that the entire Parliament has passed the Resolution."

[Translation]

and you had also desired that this should be implemented.

Shri Vidyacharan Shukla was also speaking on that day. He had also assured that it would be implemented. I would also like to quote him:-

[English]

" There are Resolutions of

both the Houses of Parliament, which have been accepted by the Government. There is a Presidential Directive also on this matter."

[Translation]

He had further said that he would convene a meeting of the leaders of various parties and take a decision in the matter. This issue has been lingering on for years. Why should not Indian languages be used as medium in U.P.S.C. examinations? Can we not teach medicine, engineering etc. through Indian languages? Can proper evaluation of the examinations conducted in Indian languages be made? If the Government needed time for preparations for this, how much time does it need at the maximum?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that this matter may be taken up seriously because with this, the question of making English compulsory is also linked. Some people may say that use of English is necessary in our country but there is a difference between necessity and compulsion. Today, on account of non-acceptance of Indian languages as medium of all examinations, a number of talented youth are frustrated. There are many youth who are being denied participation in the administration only because they do not possess good knowledge of English.

On the one hand, we have been trying for participation of backward classes in administration but on the other hand, English is becoming an obstacle in these efforts. I am not against use of English. The people who want to study English, can do so. Even the Government has accepted it to be used as a link language but it is not justified to make its use compulsory. This was not

even the intention of the framers of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request your intervention in the matter and seek a clear-cut reply from the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one or two Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very briefly you can mention, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while raising this issue during Zero Hour, I have also given notices of Calling Attention Motion and Adjournment Motion.....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswanji, until I allow you, these matters should not be mentioned here.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I have just brought it to your notice. I am not saying that you have no right. It is your discretion whether you allow or not.

Sir, this is such a serious issue that I think, it is for the first time after independence that a former President of India has also sat on 'Dharma'. I do not remember if any other former President of India had ever sat on dhama. Our former Prime Ministers have been joining such dhamas in the past, but it is for the first time that the former President of India, Giani Zail Singh, Shri V.P.Singh, Shri Devi Lal and all other friends sat on dhama together. It is also for the first time that leaders of all parties, by breaking party barriers, supported this stand unitedly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very brief, please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, you are realising the seriousness of this matter but the Government is not taking it seriously. Through you, I would like to explain the position to the Government so that it could understand the seriousness of the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Other Members also will have to speak.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, this matter is a very serious one and I think, it should go in the Guinness Book of World Records. This dhama started in 1988 and for the last six years, these youth have been sitting on dhama there. It lowers the dignity of the House if a visitor tries to jump from the visitors' gallery on the issue of using Indian languages. India is an independent country.....

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members also who would like to speak on this issue. That is why I am allowing Hon. Members to make brief speeches.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Ours is an independent country but it looks ridiculous when an agitation is launched for use of our own language in our own country. A resolution was passed in Parliament twice and even the President of India has issued orders twice. I think this type of biased action is a matter of shame for the Government too. It is a case of contempt of the House because the House had passed the Resolution twice. Shri Vidyacharan Shukla is sitting here. He had also given a categorical assurance last time. Sir, today we all, through you, want a clear-cut reply from the Government as to how long Indian languages will continue to be ignored and English will continue to be the medium of examinations? I would, once again, like to ask the Government, whether the practice of making English compulsory will be done

away with or not?

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sought your permission to speak, number one, as a representative of the State of Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER : On this topic?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Just on this particular topic.

I want to stress the reason why I have asked your permission to speak, one, as a representative of Tamil Nadu, Second, as perhaps the only representative of Tamil Nadu since 1947 who, in this House, normally speaks in Hindi and , third, as somebody who has passed a UPSC exam. and served in the Indian Foreign Service for 26 years before seeking voluntary retirement. In all these three capacities, I wish to remind the Leader of the Opposition and others who have spoken or wish to speak that it was decided back in 1950 that we would do away with the English language within 15 years. And the consequence arising at the point where that decision was going to be implemented was that my State of Tamil Nadu, then known as Madras, almost seceded from the Indian Union. It is a matter of very grave importance to the integrity of our country that we do not say things in this House or take actions which affect the integrity of this country.

And why does the question of having a compulsory English paper in the UPSC exam affect the integrity of this country? No officer of any Class I service or Class II service of the Central Government can be confirmed in his job until he has passed

compulsorily a Hindi examination. I could not have been confirmed in the Foreign Service until I had passed, one, an accounts examination and , number two, a Hindi paper. Therefore, it follows that nobody in India, whether he is from Tamil Nadu or any other part of this country, can serve the Government of India in Class I or Class II services without a compulsory minimum knowledge of Hindi.

Now if you put a situation in which officers have to know Hindi but do not have to know English, then, it means that you are converting Hindi from not only being the national language of India but also into being the sole link language....\* [Interruptions]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): He is a spokesman of the Congress (I)

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): This is objectionable. (Interruptions) Then , he was the President. [Interruptions] He cannot make an aspersion when he was the President.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Last part of Mr. Aiyar's speech will not form part of the record. You may proceed Mr. Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I was saying that if you deal with this problem without realising its full implications, I for my part have no doubt at all that you are going to set on fire a State where this fire has been very largely lowered after an effort of close on 30 years.

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

I do not think it is possible in a multilingual country to be able to run the administration, especially of Central Government or the Central Governmental institutions, without there being the possibility of whatever is written on file being understood by all officers irrespective of their mother tongues. If we have a situation in which English is not a compulsory paper, the result will be that a Under Secretary will write his note in Oriya. A Deputy Secretary might write in Tamil. A Joint Secretary might write in Hindi and a Secretary might wish to look at it in Marathi. In a multilingual State the only way of resolving this linguistic tangle will be to be able to have a language which all four of them can understand.

If you compulsorily have to pass a Hindi examination before you get confirmed in service, then the only link language will be Hindi. I have no objection and I do not think anybody in Tamil Nadu has any objection to Hindi being the National Language and being a language which is commonly used in our administration. But, if it is made exclusively a link language and if as a result of that a Class I or Class II Officer does not need to know the English language, you are compulsorily forcing Hindi upon parts of this country. We are not willing to accept such Hindi imperialism or Hindi chauvinism or Hindi colonialism. [Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. He is making good points.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, Members on the other side say that English is not an Indian language. English has been part and parcel of the linguistic heritage of this country for close on 200 years. It might have been brought in the first instance into

this country by people who invaded this country. But, in our history from the Aryans till now this has been there. English is the language of Meghalaya. English is the language of Mizoram. English is the language of Nagaland. And, I see no reason at all why we should by implication be suggesting that the Mizos or the Nagas or the Meghalians are any less Indians than the Hindi-bhashies.

Therefore, Sir, I very very strongly object to any suggestion that English should not be a compulsory paper in UPSC Examination. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call Shri Saifuddin Choudhury, but you should be very brief.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir, I may also be given that much of time which he has taken.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not keep on interfering always.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is talking of dividing the country.....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. \*

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will sit down now. You have no right to comment on what I am saying.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are also citizens of this country. You should allow me also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have a right to ask for it.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): It would have been better, if I could speak in Bengali. But I could not give prior notice for that. Now I am speaking in Hindi. We have been supporting this demand because they have been fighting for the recognition of Indian languages in UPSC examinations. We are fighting for the dignity of all Indian languages. We never said that only Hindi should be the link language.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh):  
\*\*.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitish Kumar, will you please withdraw those words?

[Interruptions]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): I am prepared to face any consequences but I am not going to withdraw. [Interruptions] I am prepared to face anything. [Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unbecoming of Mr. Nitish Kumar to have used those words in this fashion. They will not form part of the record and I will ask him not to behave in this fashion in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: We are supporting this movement because their demand is not to make 'Hindi' the link language for the whole country or to abolish English. Had it been so we would not have supported the movement. But Resolution regarding permitting candidates to take UPSC examinations in all the Indian languages had been passed a long back by both the Houses of Parliament. We are only supporting the issue regarding implementation of this Resolution. There is nothing to be agitated about it and none should feel hurt by it.

(Interruptions)

I am saying so to those who are raising such points. The issue of language is very sensitive. My mother tongue is Bangla and I feel very sad when I am not allowed to take examination in Bangla. I demand that we should be allowed to take examination in our mother tongue. The same right should be given for Tamil, Gujarati and Urdu languages also. There are no two opinions that English should also remain there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that such a long dharna is unprecedented. Police had committed atrocities against these people earlier also and this issue has also been raised here several times.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you reply to the logic which he has used in his speech?

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I am saying that we should be given right to take examinations in Bangla, Gujarati and other Indian languages. It does not mean that we will not learn Hindi or English. Anyone who qualify for IAS can learn English later on. The argument that how will the person learn English is baseless because it takes only six months time to learn any language.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue concerning language is very sensitive and I would like to make it clear that anyone demanding right to any language does not have any intention to hurt other's sentiments. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should make a clearcut statement as to by when the resolution passed by the Houses of Parliament will be implemented in the country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit that any issue relating to language creates problem for us but to accept that English is the language of our country complicates the problem further. English language is a symbol of our slavery and to accept it as a legacy is not proper. [Interruptions]

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): This is the language of the country. This is there in the Constitution. [Interruptions]

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli): You must protect the non-Hindi speaking people. We have our right to speak. This is our Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, you please sit down when I am standing.

SHRI A. CHARLES: We are not

foreigners.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The debate that is going on in the House has created a little tension in the House and it can have its impact outside the House too. But the issues raised by you are also important and decision will be taken after considering issues raised by both the sides in their proper perspective. I feel that the Government will try to solve it. Do not say anything which may create tension. Please do not put forward your views and arguments in a loud voice and improper language.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, sir, we should not accept that language and legacy. I would like to say that a conspiracy has been going on in the country since independence. I will not talk about North or South and will not say anything of that sort to create tension in the House. That I will say outside this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not say any such thing here or outside the House that may create tension in the country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I feel that, I can put forward my point logically in the House but I do not want to create tension because this conspiracy has been going on since independence. In the name of Gandhiji these politicians are defaming Gandhiji who had said that left to him he would remove English on the very first day after independence. [Interruptions] I do not understand for how long this hypocrisy will continue in the country. Without annoying anyone I would like to make my humble

request is that this is a conspiracy hatched by the people or class who have power in their hands, whether they are politicians or bureaucrats. They consider English essential. I am talking about real democracy in the country. I seek votes in Hindi and not in English. For this purpose Shri Mani Shankar uses Tamil. We all speak in regional languages to seek votes but later on we become votaries of English. I cannot argue that the country will not progress without English or the country will disintegrate in its absence. Is English the only link for the country or has the country become so weak? Now even the Hindi-speaking people have started giving a new argument that without learning English you cannot operate computers. I would like to know in which language the computers in Holland, Sweden, China and Russia are operated?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In English.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would like to ask in which language the Sputnik satellite was sent in space by Russia forty years back. Mani Shankar does not know that it was a Russian and not English. Is Mani Shankar replying to my questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Hon. Minister will satisfy you with his reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is very dangerous that the unity of the country cannot remain intact without English. This movement reminds me of 1967 when Ph.D. thesis was not accepted in Hindi. At that time we struggled for it inside as well as outside this House. Dr. Lohia himself fought in this House for this cause. He wanted that

the people should be given an opportunity to study through other Indian languages. I request that the manner in which this issue has been raised by my colleagues and the leader of the opposition.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is very important and all the Member will be given opportunity to speak on it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Therefore, some appropriate decision should be taken in the House and the resolution already passed should also be implemented sincerely.

SHRI M.R.KADAMBUR  
JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli):  
Sabanayakar avargale.....

MR. SPEAKER: At least, I should understand what you are speaking.

SHRI M.R.KADAMBUR  
JANARTHANAN: I will translate you in English. Since Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes quoted Gandhiji, I am quoting Pt. Nehru. Pt. Nehru told this country that as long as non-Hindi people want English, it should be prolonged. These were the words of Pt. Nehru.

I stand here as a Member of Parliament of AIADMK. Anna is our political Mentor. We do not want Hindi to be imposed on us. If we study Hindi only, we can live, we do not want this. We will not allow this. Therefore, I now turn to Tamil.

[Translation]\*

We should have the right to speak in

our mother tongue in Parliament. I should have the facility to listen to the entire proceedings in Tamil. We should have the facility to listen to all the questions raised in Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil and all the other languages in the Indian Constitution. This House belongs to people from all the States and all the languages.

If the translation is done in the Parliament in all the languages, I must be able to ask my supplementary in Tamil. You can ask freely in your mother tongue and I am a second rate citizen for you, I am not able to ask it in Tamil. If I speak in Tamil, I will be able to ask better questions. If English is to be abolished here then you must have translation facilities for all the Indian languages in the Constitution, first of all in Parliament. Therefore, as a Tamilian I want to say Hindi should not be imposed on us. It will be imposed at the cost of our life and blood.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that the Hon. Members have projected their views in a very cogent, forceful, wonderful manner and they are eager to hear what the Government wants to say. After Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I will request the Government to make the statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you. This is neither the time nor the occasion to discuss our language policy. We are not saying it. Certain reference has been made to an issue which is pending before the country and the Government for a very long time. I shall not speak about the superiority of one language or the other. We respect all languages. This is not necessary and we do not believe in this.

I request the Government, that instead of going now into this very question which may become little volatile, to somehow find a solution to deal with this dhama which is going on. Our young students are sitting there for long time. Government must find out a machinery to talk to them, have a dialogue with them, convince them so that this type of movement is withdrawn. Let everybody sit across the table under your leadership for finding a solution to this problem.

Let us not try to denigrate any language or claim superiority of any language. I love my language. Everybody loves his language. Nobody can take away the right to speak in my own language and everybody's right must be conceded fully. Therefore, I request the Government to sort out this problem as early as possible persuade our boys and girls who are sitting there for days, months and years, to call it off in the manner which is acceptable to everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madubhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one has spoken from my party. We should also be given an opportunity to speak.....[Interruptions]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): First of all, I would like to make a small correction in what Hon. Leader of Opposition has said.

He said that in the UPSC we are not using Indian languages as the medium of examination, which is not correct. We are using all the Indian languages as the medium of examination in the UPSC already.



SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is not so for engineering. not medicine; that is the problem.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Please listen to me.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I will never misinform the House. I have never done it.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I am only giving my information, as I have. May be, if I have to correct myself, I will correct myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vajpayee is asking about engineering and medicine.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. We will find out.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I will correct it myself.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps this House may not be knowing that the same was the situation in England where study of Engineering and Medicine was not allowed in English. Then some politicians who were votaries of English language came on the scene and created conditions for this language.

*[English]*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We all know that in Britain also in the beginning for several centuries the French language was being used, not English, because of the colonial rule of the French over that country.

We all know it. It is not unknown to us. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear little carefully what he is saying.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: This question must be viewed in the proper perspective. First of all, I would like to make it clear that it is not a question between Hindi and English. This is a question between English and all the Indian languages. Therefore, here it should not be viewed as if Hindi is sought to be imposed on non-Hindi speaking people. That is not the correct perspective at all. Now, basically, I would say that the Government also views this matter as a question between the haves and have nots. There are lot of people who have had the privilege or the opportunity of studying English and studying in English language. The Government's idea is not that they could have an additional advantage over the Indian language students. Many poor students in Tamil Nadu, in Karnataka, in Kerala, in Andhra Pradesh and Hindi-speaking areas, do not have the opportunity or the facilities in their villages although they are very brilliant boys and girls to study in the English language. Therefore, they should not be under any handicap to come to the highest level of our country's administration, politics and social life and industrial and business life.

Therefore, when the Constitution was drafted, the Eighth Schedule listed all the Indian languages. English does not find a place in the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, technically, English is not an Indian language, although as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar says several Indian States are using English as the State language. We do not prohibit them; we do not tell them not to use it, because this whole question has to be handled in a proper manner and in a manner

in which it meets the general requirement of all Indian people including the nationalists, patriotic Indians living in the North-East of India.

Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave a solemn assurance which was backed by the subsequent Prime Minister that nothing would be done to impose Hindi on anyone who do not want it. The Government stands by that. We do not want to impose Hindi on anybody who is not wanting to do it.

But today what is happening in front of the UPSC is not for Hindi or against English. That is not the question. The only limited question which has been agitating the minds of all people, including the people whose mother tongue is not Hindi is that the compulsory paper in English deprives those poorer sections of the country who did not have the opportunity of learning English and therefore they cannot come up in the UPSC examination if English is made a compulsory subject. Therefore, an alternative suggestion has been made that English as a compulsory paper should be removed. The Government intends to accept it. Now, in place of this it has been proposed that instead of a compulsory paper English should be made into an qualifying paper.

Now, Sir, on this matter no decision has so far been taken. I hope that a quick decision will be taken. [Interruptions]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What is the difference between the words 'qualifying' and 'compulsory'? [Interruptions]

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I am only presenting the entire question. [Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly do not interrupt like this. Kindly listen to the Minister carefully.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, when this matter was before both the Houses of Parliament, both the House of Parliament passed a unanimous resolution giving the views of the Indian people as reflected in the two Houses of Parliament and Presidential Directive on that basis was issued. And that is before the Government, on which a decision has to be taken.

I would like to reassure the Hon. Members that whatever is being done will be equally beneficial for all Indian languages whether it is Tamil or Kannada or Urdu or Hindi or Punjabi or any other language. Sir, it is not going to be any decision, which is going to benefit Hindi and, therefore, any misgivings that the Hon. Members may have in their mind that Hindi is sought to be imposed via the back-door or any other method should be firmly and resolutely removed from their mind. This is my appeal.

Sir, again there is no question of superiority, as Shri Somnath Babu has been saying. We do not regard, the Government and the Hon. Members of this House do not regard one language. Superior to another language. All languages have been described in the Constitution as national languages of India. That is the description that has been given to all the Indian languages. And, therefore, we do not regard Hindi language superior to any other language or one language superior to another language. Every language has been given a similar and an equal status in our Constitution. Therefore, the Government intends to abide by and to respect the unanimous resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament and the Directive given by the President on this matter. And, therefore, I would request you, Sir, and through you, to the House, not to get excited over this matter. This is a matter.....(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: I hope you are not requesting me to....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I have repeated this matter time and again. When I said 'you', I did not mean 'you' and I meant 'Presiding Officer', Some-times.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to get excited to see that there is calm in the House.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Therefore, Sir, I would request the House to give us time because this is a very sensitive matter. If it has not been resolved for so long, it is not because the Government does not want to resolve it. But, kindly see the sensitivity of the question here. We will certainly try and take such a step which will meet the aspirations of the various sections of the Indian people to the extent possible.

Sir, I have put the whole matter in a proper perspective. This is not a matter between Hindi and English. This is a matter, if at all, between English language and other national languages of India. And in this background, we are going to take a decision in this matter. I hope, if it does not satisfy the House totally, at least partially it will satisfy the House. We have to take a very cautious and a proper step, which will not create such difficulties. Rather than solving the difficulties, our step should not increase the difficulties in resolution of this matter. Therefore, I would appeal to the House to be calm and to exercise full restraint in this matter so that we can resolve this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Last time when this issue was raised on 13th December 1993, Shri Shukla Ji had given an assurance that a meeting of

the leaders would be called and the decision would be taken but he did not convene the meeting and therefore the matter has become yet more complicated. It is very sad that today it has become the bone of contention. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not want that anything should cast a shadow on the unity and the integrity of the country but the way the question has been raised, is not proper. Had the Hon. Minister called the meeting and taken the decision, there would have been no use of raising this issue

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: This is a matter which relates to both the Houses of Parliament. In fact, I should convene a meeting myself. But, it would be better if you convene a meeting of all the Leaders tomorrow some time to discuss this matter without any difficulty. It is always better for an impartial and respected person like you to call a meeting so that we can have discussions properly. [Interruptions] In your meetings nobody can bring in politics. But in my meetings everybody will bring in politics. Therefore, I would request you to call a meeting and invite the Leaders from both the Houses. Let us discuss it tomorrow. We are willing to discuss it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have the same view, as you have on it then what makes the difference?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Government's views are not in line with that of an Hon. Member, who had unfortunately mentioned North and South. This is not a question of North and South but it is related to the implementation of a motion adopted by the House. This question has not cropped up today only but

it was raised some 26 years back in 1968. Specially Vajpayee Ji had raised this issue that Indian languages should not only be accepted as medium of education but English should also be made optional at primary level. It has been mentioned that every officer should take a paper of Hindi, I had accepted it but it was not like that at the beginning, Directions have been laid in this regard in the motion, a suggestion has been given, which I would like to read out:-

[English]

"This House resolves that compulsory knowledge of either Hindi or English shall be required at the stage of selection of candidates for recruitment...."

[Translation]

It will not be like that that one will be recruited if one has the knowledge of English alone. Taking into consideration the prevalent, circumstances of the country at that time in 1965, Pandit Nehru had made a promise which had been referred just now, both Hindi and English were accepted as link languages. Therefore it was said in the motion that:

[English]

"..... to the Union services or posts, except in respect of any special services or post for which a high standard of knowledge of English alone or Hindi alone, or both as the case may be, is considered essential for the satisfactory performance of the duties of any such service or post."

[Translation]

It means that the paper of English would be compulsory and none had envisaged that one would take the paper of Hindi of the time of confirmation. Therefore, those who are staging a dharna, leading the agitation for such a long period should be given assurance and once again, it should be reiterated that the motion adopted by the House will be implemented without any further delay.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (Nagaur):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the background in which the question was raised by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, is very gloomy.....  
[Interruptions]... what is said by the Government, is final....[Interruptions].... If the former President of our country along with the former Prime Minister stages a dharna and does politics on this issue....[Interruptions].. I am in favour of Hindi but I am not an opportunist like you...[Interruptions].. Today the way this question has been raised and the way you further deteriorate the situation inside and outside the House will be unfortunate for the country. I will not survive for more than a year or two.\* Today the former President is staging a dharna.....[Interruptions]  
Today the country.....\*

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will it go on record, Sir ?.....[Interruptions]

MR SPEAKER: It has gone out of record.  
[Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I would

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

like to know what do the students of Hindi and other languages want. These people are creating disorder today in the country. There may be so many ways but the way they have adopted it is not proper. Generally, I do not speak, I always keep silence. My speech.....[*Interruptions*]

MR SPEAKER: The aged Members have the right to speak something about us, but it will not be a part of the record and the young Members get chances time and again to speak something, it will also not go on record.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Speaker, Sir,.....[*Interruptions*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, Please do not prolong it.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I shall take only one minute, Sir because we have been misunderstood.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. Now Mr. Charles wants to remove the misunderstanding.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I come from the southernmost State of this great country, that is, Kerala, and my mother tongue is Malayalam. In my State, every student begins to learn Hindi from the first standard itself. That is the only State where the Trilingual Formula, that has been given by Pandit ji, has been scrupulously followed. From first standard, we study Malayalam, our mother tongue, we study Hindi and we study English also. It is very unfortunate that some of the States in the North do not even study their mother tongue. So, I would plead that the Trilingual Formula should be scrupulously followed, and if they do not find time and if compulsory English is removed,

compulsory Hindi should also be removed, till a situation comes when the whole country unanimously accepts it.

Unity in diversity is the crux of democracy. Please do not hate English. Please do not have a feeling that we, from the South, are against Hindi. But any attempt to impose Hindi will only ruin the future of the country. So, everybody should be for the unity of India. [*Interruptions*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Hindi is not compulsory.....[*Interruptions*]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Mainpuri): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am a staunch devotee of Hindi, and always says something good and never speaks anything provocative. The whole of the discussion today has taken a wrong direction. Let me start with two stanzas of poetry.

So Mein Sattar Fi Sadi Filhal Jab  
Nashad Hai  
Dil Pe Rakhkar Hath Kahiye Mulk  
Kaya Azad Hai?

Seventy percent people are leading a miserable life today since hardly one per cent know English in our country while two percent claims to know it. I have been a teacher of English for forty years but I know that we can speak Hindi, our mother tongue very well. None has raised the question of imposing Hindi here. The point is that as per the intentions of the Constitutions, English should be withdrawn as essential medium for employment and prestige..... [*Interruptions*]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright you have expressed in a good manner.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: alas, if the assurance were given in the same way. Assurances have been given many a times during the last 26 years but now the assurance should be given to implement earlier assurances.....[Interruptions]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): The Hon. Minister is present here and he is the Chairman of the Official Language Committee. His views should also come on it.

MR . SPEAKER: It is good. The Hon. Home Minister would inform you about his views.

[English]

I think Shri Charles has done a service by trying to remove the misunderstandings. But if any misunderstanding is created because of his statement, it has to be cleared by saying that Hindi is not going to be imposed on any State or anybody. I think ..... [Interruptions]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on it was held in a cordial atmosphere and keeping that into consideration I agree with Shukla ji and will discuss and decide it tomorrow on a cup of tea with you.

[Interruptions]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed for 45 minutes today. I will allow it tomorrow.

[Interruptions]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, you please allow to raise one important matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, you have to give us time today. It is regarding the orders in the public sector enterprises. Yesterday the Minister did not reply.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow tomorrow. Let us now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

12. 55 hrs

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Report of one Man Commission of Inquiry regarding Group clashes in Manipur, Statement of Action Taken by the Government on the above report etc.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS ( SHRI S.B.CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 read with clause (c) (iv) of the proclamation dated the 31st December, 1993 issued by the President in relation to the State of Manipur:-
  - (i) Report of One Man Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice D.M.Sen set up to enquire into the Incidents of the Group clashes on the 3rd May, 1993 in the State of Manipur (Volume -I).
  - (ii) Statement of the Action Taken by the State Government of