

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get your chance.

15-35 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTEENTH REPORT

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN (Seoni): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th March, 1978."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Private Member Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th March, 1978".

*The motion was adopted.*

15.36 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE OF ENGLISH AS ADDITIONAL LINK LANGUAGE—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri S. D. Somasundaram on the 17th March 1978:—

"This House do urge upon the Government to amend the Constitution so as to implement Pandit Nehru's solemn assurance to Parliament that, besides Hindi being the link language, English would continue as additional link language so long as non-Hindi speaking people want it."

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: (Barrack-pore): I was speaking in support of the resolution moved by Shri Somasundaram and cautioned friends from all sides of the House not to take the language issue on an emotional plane because history has proved time and again that language can be and is a very touchy and a very emotional issue. We all know about the birth

of, Bangla Desh, when the new nation was born by the efforts of the people who protested against the imposition of another language on them. Bangla Desh never resented Urdu but when Urdu was imposed on them and when Urdu was forcibly made the official language in the whole of Pakistan, the people of Bangla Desh rose in revolt against the alien rule. Hence also, in India one may have emotional links with one's language. Personally speaking I should support, I would dream in the same way as Mahatma Gandhi had dreamed that one day Hindustani would become the lingua franca of India. As a patriot I also think that if really an original Indian language could become the lingua franca of India, it would be the best thing possible. It has happened in other countries like the Soviet Union which is a multinational country with a large number of languages, but Russian is used as a link language. Unfortunately the same was not followed in our country and the whole introduction of Hindi was done in such a way as to wound the feelings of the Non-Hindi speaking people, as if to give them the feeling that they were second class citizens in India it is against this that we must caution today. As it is, India has got a lot of problems, problems such as poverty, unemployment and language is not an issue which should be tinkered with and dealt with callously. It is unfortunate that after the Janata party has come to power due to the enthusiasm of some zealots, in their zeal to propagate Hindi, they have deprecated the other Indian languages, like our Health Minister Mr. Raj Narain who said in London that English was the Rani and the Tamil and other Indian languages were Dasi... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: He did not say that.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: These are the words which offend the sentiments of non-Hindi speaking people Ours is a country which is essentially