

Shri S. Kandappan: This discussion which has been allowed is coming up only next week, in any case not before 23rd July. The whole statement is misleading. Obviously, they have postponed it and they are not going to take it up.

Mr. Speaker: The discussion is going to come up.

Shri S. Kandappan: It is quite obvious from the statement that the port is not going to be constructed. So, we would like to seek some information from the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Within one week, neither the port is going to be constructed nor is it going to be cancelled.

Shri S. Kandappan: It is a foregone conclusion that they are not going to take it up. That is quite obvious from the statement. There was one Mudaliar Committee report submitted long ago.

Mr. Speaker: I know that if the hon. Member wants, I shall advance the discussion earlier. I shall consider whether we could advance it.

Shri S. Kandappan: I only want to seek some information. The Mudaliar Committee had submitted a report long ago, in which the deepening of the

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member begins to put questions now, then I shall have to permit other hon. Members also. I do not know how long it would take.

Shri S. Kandappan: The deepening of the Sethusamudram canal was linked with this project. I would like to know what prompted Government to say that this project is separate from that one. That is the only thing that I would like to know.

12.40 hrs.

STATEMENT ON MEDIA OF EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY STAGE

The Minister of Education (Dr. Triguna Sen): I beg to make a statement on the adoption of Indian languages as media of education at the university stage.

The Government of India has accepted in principle that Indian languages should now be adopted as media of education at all stages. Government is convinced that unless this is done

Mr. Speaker: Is he going to read out the whole statement?

Dr. Triguna Sen: I am reading out only the last paragraph.

Shri M. Y. Saleem (Nalgonda): It is a very important statement. It may be read out.

Shri S. Kandappan (Mettur): The statements were distributed to us at about ten o'clock. Why can they not make it comprehensive? Why should they make changes at the last minute?

Dr. Triguna Sen: I am only reading out from the statement.

Government is convinced that unless this is done, the creative energies of the people will not be released, standards of education will not improve, knowledge will not spread to the people and the gulf between the intelligentsia and the masses will not be bridged. The details of the implementation of this most important educational decision of a century of struggle are being worked out and will be announced on 15th August, 1967.

I lay the statement on the Table of the House.

Statement

The proposal to adopt the Indian languages as media of education at the university stage has been before the country for almost a hundred

years. The first demand for this was put forward on 1st August 1867 in a memorial submitted by the British Indian Association of the North-Western Provinces (the present Uttar Pradesh) to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. This was not accepted on the ground that the necessary literature was not available in the modern Indian languages. This question was also raised on several subsequent occasions. But the decision was always the same: there was not enough literature in Indian languages to use them as media of education. Consequently, English continued to be the exclusive medium of education at the university stage till 1947.

2. A frontal attack on this policy was launched by our great national leaders in the twenties of this century. Rabindra Nath Tagore pointed out that in no country of the world, except India, was the language of education divorced from the language of the students and that the use of English as the medium of education in universities confined higher knowledge and culture to a select section of the citizens instead of making them universally available to the people. Mahatma Gandhi wrote frequently and strongly on the subject. "I must cling to my mother tongue as to my mother's breast, in spite of its shortcomings. It alone can give me the life-giving milk", he said and added: "I am certain that the children of the nation that receive instruction in a tongue other than their own commit suicide. It robs them of all originality. It stunts their growth and isolates them from their home. I regard, therefore, such a thing as a national tragedy of the first importance." Gandhiji also stressed the need to make this change-over as quickly as possible. "The medium of instruction", he wrote, "should be altered at once and at any cost, the provincial languages being given their rightful place. I would prefer temporary chaos in higher education to the criminal waste that is daily accu-

mulating." It is also important to note that all the national universities that were started at this period and the Indian Women's University used Indian languages as media of education.

3. The problem has been receiving growing attention in the post-independence period and the demand for the adoption of Indian languages as media of education at the university stage is continually growing. The University Education Commission (1948-49) recommended that "higher education be imparted through the instrumentality of the regional language with the option to use the federal language as the medium of instruction either for some subjects or for all subjects. The National Integration Council (June 1962) supported this view and observed "the change in the medium of instruction is justified, not so much by cultural or political sentiments, as on the very important academic consideration of facilitating grasp and understanding of the subject matter. Further India's university men will be unable to make their maximum possible contribution to the advancement of learning generally, and science and technology in particular, unless there is continuous means of communication in the shape of the regional languages between its masses, its artisans and technicians and its university men. The development of talent latent in the country will also, in the view of the Council, be retarded unless regional languages are employed as media of instruction at the university stage." The Committee on Emotional Integration (1962) endorsed these recommendations and observed: "We are not unaware of the practical difficulties involved in the switch-over to regional languages at the university level. Safeguards have to be devised to prevent the lowering of standards. The change-over must be preceded by preparation of text-books and arrangements for translation from English and wherever possible, other modern world

[Dr Triguna Sen]

languages. In order to maintain inter-university and inter-State communication, special attention must be paid to the teaching of the link languages—English and Hindi—when the changeover to the regional languages is accomplished. We would, however, like to point out that in the name of safeguards, the switchover should not be delayed indefinitely. The Vice-Chancellor's Conference (1962) generally endorsed the recommendations of the National Integration Council and the Emotional Integration Committee. The Education Commission (1964-66) made a strong recommendation on the subject and said "We suggest that the UGC and the Universities carefully work out a feasible programme suitable for each university or a group of universities. The change-over should take place as early as possible in any case within about ten years. What is required is to formulate a clear policy, to express it in unambiguous terms and to follow it up with firm bold and imaginative action." The proposal has also been supported by the Tenth Conference of State Education Ministers (April 1967) and by the Committee of Members of Parliament on Education (1967). But they would prefer the change-over to be brought about in five years.

4 In view of all this weight of academic and public opinion and the fact that Indian languages have already been adopted almost universally at the school stage and by more than half the universities, the Government of India has accepted in principle that Indian languages should now be adopted as media of education at all stages and in all subjects, including agriculture, engineering, law, medicine and technology. Government is convinced that, unless this is done, the creative energies of the people will not be released, standards of education will not improve, knowledge will not spread to the people and the gulf between the intelligentsia and the masses will not

be bridged. The details of the implementation of this most important educational decision of a century of struggle are being worked out and will be announced on 15th August, 1967.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (काँज)
अध्यक्ष महादय, हम मन्वन्ध म युक्त एक
वात कहने दाजण ।

Mr. Speaker: We will have a discussion.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok (South Delhi)
Has any date been fixed for this changeover?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया। मैं डा०
विगुण सेन की बात का अर्था पसन्द करता
हूँ। परन्तु दफ्तर एक मंत्री यहाँ ऐसा बात
बाता है, जिनके साथ मेरा दिल आधा गया
है। अर्था क्यों गया है? इस सिये
कि

Mr. Speaker: He is congratulating the Minister.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया। आधा—
इसका कि कोई ताख आज—इस वक्त—
नहीं पायी जा रहा है। यह पाच या
दस या पंद्रह दस रखने का नतीजा हमेशा
खतरनाक होता है। इसलिए वह आज
क्या कर रहे हैं वह बात जरूर आ जानी
चाहिए। वह कल क्या करेंगे, वह बात बहुत
कम महत्व की है। वह आज क्या कर रहे
हैं?

श्री कपूर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर)।
अध्यक्ष महोदय हम मारे मदन की तरफ से
मंत्रा महादय का धर्म दना चाहते हैं।

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Whenever hon. Members want, they can have a discussion.

Shri S. Kandappan: We must have a discussion. We must discuss the principle and the policy.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. It is an important subject.

I will discuss it with you and fix up some time, an hour or something like that. If this method of putting questions now is adopted, it will only be waste of time because they may not get the answer. Let us have an hour's discussion. If hon. Members only want clarifications now, I have no objection. But I think it would be more useful to have an hour's discussion with each party expressing its views in ten or five minutes. We have been having such discussions. I think it has been very very useful. I am satisfied that it is serving some useful purpose. But if in the name of clarification questions are asked now, it does not satisfy anybody. So let us have a discussion. The Minister will also be very happy to explain the policy and clarify the position. Therefore, we shall fix up some time.

Shri R. K. Amin (Dhandhuka): May I seek a clarification?

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के द्वारा शिक्षा मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि यह माँग 1 अगस्त, 1867 को उठाई गई थी और यह प्रश्न मौ साल से देश के सामने है, इस लिये वह इस योजना को 15 अगस्त के बजाय 1 अगस्त से लागू करें, ताकि उस पूर्ण शताब्दी का एक अलग अन्वेषण बन जाये।

Mr. Speaker: He can suggest it during the discussion.

12.43 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIFTH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 18th July 1987".

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 18th July 1987".

श्री मधु लिवये (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि तीसरी लोक सभा में हम लोगों को एक बार नहीं, दो तीन बार यह धारात्मक दिया गया था कि हिन्दुस्तान का क्षेत्रफल (यू.ए.आ. आफ इंडिया) तिकुड़ रहा है, उस के बारे में श्री चागला का जो वक्तव्य है, उस पर बहस का मौका दिया जायेगा। इस बारे में एक प्रस्ताव भी दिया गया है। हमारी यह माँग है कि उन को लिया जाये।

श्री महोदय ने अभी भारतीय भाषाओं का शिक्षा का माध्यम बनाने के बारे में जो वक्तव्य दिया है, उसके लिये एक घंटे की बहस से काम नहीं चलेगा। इसके लिये कम से कम टाई घंटे रखे जायें।

श्री बलराज भद्योक्त (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : शिक्षा मंत्री ने शिक्षा के माध्यम के बारे में जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है, वह पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को कमेटी के निर्णय पर आधारित है। उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट अभी तक गवर्नमेंट को नहीं दी गई है। कमेटी ने निश्चित रूप से यह कहा है कि यह चैंज-ओवर पांच साल में हो।

Is it proper that before the report is submitted Government take a decision of this sort without giving any time-limit?