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MR. SPEAKER: That is what I told him.

श्री धीरू लाल मंडल : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बतलाया कि सिंचाई योजना राज्य का विषय है। इसी सदन में माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा था कि बिहार की पश्चिमी कोसी नहर को मॉनिटर करने के लिये एक दल बनाया जायगा या एक कमटी बनाई जायागी जिस में बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री या सिंचाई मंत्री होंगे और केन्द्र के सिंचाई मंत्री होंगे। अभी तक इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रगति हुई है या नहीं?—इस की जानकारी मुझे नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या इस प्रश्न का कोई जवाब है ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The question was in a general form and particularly the information asked for in respect of Madhya Pradesh had been replied to. But if the hon. Member wants to know the latest position about any proposal in respect of Bihar, I require time for that.

Medium of Instruction

*681. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any clear cut policy as to what should be the medium of instruction at all levels of education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The National Policy Resolution on Education (1968) *inter alia* states that the regional languages are already in use as media of education at the primary and secondary stages. Urgent steps should be taken to adopt them as media of education in the university stage.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY: The reply given by the hon. Minister

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shows that the Government has failed to develop our mother-tongues as the media of education at all levels. This is the 34th year of independence. There are provisions in the Constitution to the effect that the linguistic minorities would be given proper attention. The Government has, however, failed to take up the question of education through mother-tongue properly. There are instances like the Adivasis in Santhal area demanding for long that they must be given a written script. Now, the left Government in West Bengal has provided them with Alchiki. The Tripura left Government has also given Kokbrak script to the Tripura tribals. There are tribals in Manipur as also Nepali speaking tribals, but no attention is being paid to them. Will the Government see that all the mother-tongues of different language-speaking people of our country will be developed on an equal basis as equal and for that matter will they appoint a National Commission for Development of Languages, which must be a statutory body? Will the Government consider this suggestion?

MR. SPEAKER: You are only making a suggestion, not asking a question.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The medium of instruction is a State subject. The National Policy Resolution on Education (1968) makes it absolutely clear that at the primary and secondary stage the mother-tongue should be the medium of instructions, and even at the University level if it can be pursued, that should be encouraged. That is the policy which, in fact, has been enunciated but that does not necessarily mean that the languages which are considered important internationally also should be discouraged. That is not the policy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY: My question has not been answered. This is the 34th year of independence. The hon. Minister said that at the University level, the medium of education is not the mother-tongue. Why is it so? There is discrimination also in this respect. Some languages are not given proper attention. This is

[Shri Saifuddin Choudhury]

not a question of State subject. We must have a national policy. And for that matter, I wanted a categorical answer, whether the Government would consider this.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: In most of the States, the primary and secondary education is being given in the mother-tongue or in the regional language according to the option of the student who would like to opt for it. At the University stage, there are a few States where they have adopted the mother-tongue as the medium of instruction. So, the question of appointing any Commission for this purpose does not arise.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: You will agree with me that one uniform language for higher education and research purposes is a categorical imperative. What we have seen recently is that because of the switch-over to regional languages as the medium of instruction, the university education is increasingly becoming a babel of tongues. In view of the desirability of maintaining uniformity, standard and excellence in higher education, will the Government decide on a uniform policy of medium of instruction at least at higher level like the University level and research?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Kothari Commission had recommended and in 1968, the National Policy Resolution on Education also stated, that as far as possible encouragement should be given to having higher education in the regional language or in the mother-tongue in different areas, but I fully appreciate the point which the hon. Member has made that there has to be a link language. That is why, either Hindi or English should normally form the medium of instruction at the University level and that is a matter which is under the consideration of Government.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has given in his answer that urgent steps should be taken to adopt

regional language as medium of instruction at University stage. Now, I want to know whether he is aiming at the disintegration of this country itself. You may be aware that in some States there is regional language or mother-tongue as medium of instruction at University stage, but they do not give emphasis to both Hindi and English. In some Southern States they give emphasis to English while in some Northern States they give emphasis to Hindi. And at the University stage also if you adopt regional language—of course, I am not opposed to that—are you prepared to see that in such a case Hindi and English are taught compulsorily? Otherwise the consequence will be very detrimental to the country.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: What has been stated in the reply is a part of the Policy Resolution of 1968 and also the recommendation of the Kothari Commission. But I have made it absolutely clear that Government is definitely considering the proposal of having University Education in a link language, either in Hindi or in English. But since these recommendations are there, the matters are still under the consideration of the Government.

बड़े नगरों में जनसंख्या का दबाव कम करने की योजना

*685. श्री आर. एन. राव :
श्री एन. ई. होरो :

क्या निर्माण और आवास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कुछ कस्बों के निर्माण के लिए चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान राज्य सरकारों को धनराशि स्वीकृत की है ताकि बड़े नगरों में जनसंख्या का बढ़ता हुआ दबाव रोका जा सके ;

(ख) क्या यह योजना 1979 में शुरू की गई थी और इसे छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में भी शामिल किया गया है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो योजना का ब्योरा क्या है ; और