

Reservation Lists in Hindi

*225. PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in New Delhi and Delhi Railway Stations Reservation Lists are being hung up only in Hindi;

(b) is he also aware of the great inconvenience caused to the public who do not know Hindi, and

(c) if so, whether any step is contemplated to see that along with Hindi, Reservation Lists are also typed in other languages so that there is no inconvenience caused to any section of the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) Second class Reservation Charts of 10 trains running exclusively in Hindi speaking areas and leaving from Delhi/New Delhi stations on Northern Railway are being exhibited in Hindi only

Steps are being taken to exhibit the reservation charts of these 10 trains in English also

PROF DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: Is it the idea of the hon. Minister that in the zone of Northern Railway, only Hindi speaking persons are likely to be the passengers? Will he agree with me that there is a danger of disintegrating the fabric of unity by insisting too much on one language and that national integration is also a psychological phenomenon?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Part (a): No, Sir, Part (b): national integration is necessary, that is why, last part of the answer is there.

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: Is it contemplated to notify the passengers' lists and also the sign boards on platforms in different parts of the country in different national languages,

either all the fourteen national languages or by clubbing the kindred languages of India. Being a teacher myself, not a linguist, I would make the clubbing for the assistance of the Railway Minister. For example, we could make the grouping one, Marathi-Gujarati, two, Bengali-Oriya-Assamese three, Tamil-Telugu-Kannada-Malayalam

MR SPEAKER: You are going out of the question

PROF DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: We can make this grouping and notify in one of the languages in each group. Would he agree with me?

MR SPEAKER: He will look into that

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: No, Sir. There are two parts of the question. One question is related to sign boards. I have made it very clear that as far as the sign-boards of the stations are concerned, the order of languages in every station will be the regional language, Hindi and then English

SHRI V ARUNACHALAM ALIAS ALADI ARUNA: In some of the stations in Tamil Nadu (Interruptions)...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You are referring only to the old order that existed, and I am referring to the new order that we have now. I said that instructions have already been issued; and it will take some time, because throughout the country there are 7,000 stations; but I may assure the hon. member that his sentiment will be taken note of, and has been taken note of. Even where the order has been changed, the signboards will be in this order. As far as the charts are concerned, we have already issued instructions that both English and Hindi will be utilized. Charts will be displayed in Hindi along with English in Hindi speaking areas on important trains; and there will be no difficulty in doing this.

SHRI K. GOPAL: The hon. Minister will agree with me that Indian Rail-

are used not only by people from Hindi speaking areas, as my friend rightly pointed out, but by Indians and foreigners. When I say 'foreigners' I mean people like us who are treated as foreigners in this part of the country, by his Ministry I would, therefore, like to know whether the Minister is aware that in a station like Nizamuddin, New Delhi and Delhi, announcements about arrivals and departures are made only in Hindi and not in other languages. If I go to receive a person I do not understand what damned train is coming. Will the hon. Minister assure me that he will see to it that announcements are made both in Hindi and English? (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE Let me answer the question. As far as the hon. Member is concerned, I will not go by the words that he used but by the emotions and sentiments which I want to respect. I can assure him that as far as this Government is concerned it will not encourage any fissiparous or disintegrating tendency, in matters including its attitude towards language. I will check up (Interruptions) Let me complete. Therefore, at the particular station to the announcements wherein he has made a reference (Interruptions)

SHRI K GOPAL Not a particular station, all the stations in Delhi.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE Let me complete the answer. You can ask 50 supplementaries. I am prepared to answer.

MR. SPEAKER I am not going to allow it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE Subject to your approval, Sir. Therefore, I want to tell the hon. Member that firstly. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: rose,

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE The other hon. Member has raised the question. She knows the parliamentary procedure. I would like to inform the House, including Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan, that we will take cognizance of this complaint. My information is that in a number of stations, the announcements are made both in English and Hindi.

SOME HON. MEMBERS No, no.

MR. SPEAKER Please allow him to answer. Mr. Gopal if you want the answer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE I don't want to challenge the integrity of any Member, and Mr. Gopal knows that I am the last man to do it. I accept what he said. I say that whether the complaint is about only one particular station, or about a number of stations, I will check it up and he can rest assured that pursuing our usual policy, the announcements will be made in both the languages.

श्री प्रवीण सिंह मन्दीरिया: माननीय सदस्य हिन्दी के प्रयोग के विरुद्ध शिकायत कर रहे हैं। मन्दी महोदय से हमारी शिकायत उलटी है—यह कि दिल्ली के प्रलाषा मन्दीरिया बम्बई आदि में जो चार्ट लगाये जाते हैं, वे सिर्फ अंग्रेजी में लगाये जाते हैं, एक भी हिन्दी में नहीं लगाया जाता है। क्या मन्दी महोदय ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगे कि अंग्रेजी के साथ साथ हिन्दी में भी चार्ट लगाये जायें, जिससे लोगो को अनुविधा न हो?

प्रो० मधु दण्डवते: श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य की शिकायत सही है क्योंकि मैंने दिल्ली क्षेत्र के स्टेशन की जो लिस्ट देखी उसमें दस ऐसी गाडियां हैं जहां सिर्फ हिन्दी में ही, ऐसी भी पांच गाडियां हैं कि जहां हिन्दी और इंग्लिश में ही और दूसरी गाडिया पर सिर्फ अंग्रेजी में ही। इसलिए मैं उन को यकीन दिलाता चाहता हू, पहले जो

को पूरा प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहें, इन सब बातों में जो हिन्दी प्रारंभिक लोगों में चर्चा रहे जायेंगे।

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: I understand the importance given by the Railway Minister and that he is for the unification of the nation. Whenever he gives the answer, he has never forgotten to mention the Indian languages. He has pointed out certain things especially the reservations in some of the Delhi railway stations and said that English is also to be used along with Hindi. But he has also mentioned throughout his answer that Hindi will also be introduced and used in almost all parts of our country. Of course, according to the Indian Constitution, Hindi is also necessary. But what is the necessity of just using Hindi language at Kanyakumari and some other parts of our country where the majority of the neglected people do not understand what exactly the language is? (Interruptions).

Why should unnecessarily waste the stationery and all these things? (Interruptions) As far as Tamilnadu is concerned, only English and Tamil is to be used, not Hindi. What is the attitude of the Railway Minister on this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. You have mentioned that.

(Interruptions)

You have mentioned that. He is answering it.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: Can you get some clarification from him on this?

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing him to give clarification. You are yourself monopolising it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: Are we having the real freedom in this country?

(Interruptions)

I warn you that you consider the north part of your country; you do not consider the south part of your country.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER Do not record anything

(Interruptions)**

Mr. Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I can assure the hon. Members in the House that I do not want to convert this issue into south and north issue and I can assure him that announcements are, after all, for the convenience of the passengers. For instance, at Trivandrum station or some other station or at a village station or at a mofussil station where people do not understand even English language or Hindi language, in that case, the announcements are made mostly in Tamil language, at some places in Marathi language and at some places Gujarati language is more desirable. So, ultimately as far as announcements are concerned, I will give you a concrete illustration. At some of the mofussil stations in Gujarat, announcements are not made in English and Hindi at all; there the announcements are made in Gujarati language because people would not follow other languages. They may follow Gujarati and Hindi to some extent. I can assure him that as far as his difficulties are concerned, announcements are for the convenience of the passengers and these will therefore be made in a suitable language.