

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, May 12, 1997/Vaisakha 22, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Six Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHEASTERN IRAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Members are aware, many people met with an untimely death on account of a devastating earthquake that struck Northeastern Iranian town of Qaen on 10 May, 1997.

The House expresses its shock and grief at the tragedy which has befallen the Iranian people. On behalf of myself and on behalf of the whole House, I extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in the memory of deceased.

11.07 hrs.

The Member then stood in silence for a short while

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Committees for Protection of Urdu

*501. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Gujaral and Sardar Jafri Committees set up by the Government for the protection of Urdu;

(b) the details of recommendations implemented so far and the time by which all the recommendations will be implemented; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Gujaral Committee report was tabled in the House on February 21, 1979. This covered a wide range of recommendations for promotion of Urdu through steps in different areas involving Education, Administration, Legislation, etc. The status of implementation of this report was reviewed by Jafri Committee which broadly accepted these recommendations.

Some of the major recommendations in respect of education are setting up of Urdu medium primary schools in areas where Urdu speaking population constitutes 10% or more, opening Urdu medium sections in existing secondary schools wherever necessary, and modifications in Three Language Formula in order to facilitate teaching of Urdu.

(b) and (c) Several recommendations of the Jafri Committee and the Gujaral Committee have already been implemented. These includes :

1. Bureau for Promotion of Urdu has been converted into National Council for Promotion of Urdu Languages, (NCPUL), an autonomous body.
2. Facilities provided for promoting research and training of Urdu teachers through Central Institute of Indian Language, Mysore.
3. NCERT has brought out Urdu text books.
4. Calligraphy training centres are being assisted by NCPUL. To promote Urdu reference and research work, NCPUL has brought out the first volume of a 10 volume Urdu encyclopedia.
5. Urdu manuscripts and books are being published by NCPUL. Two volumes of Urdu-English Dictionary published.
6. Award for creative writing in Urdu given by Sahitya Academy every year.
7. Urdu version of Constitution of India brought out.
8. Electoral rolls prepared in Urdu in certain constituencies.
9. Several programmes in Urdu being broadcast in the national channel of All India Radio.