

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I am on a point of order.. *(Interruptions)*.. My point of order is that this Special Mention was allowed by the Chairman and it is not proper or your part, sitting in the Chair now, to associate yourself with the Special Mention. this is my point of order.. *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Let me clarify ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The whole House associates itself with it.. *(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes . . . *(Interruptions)*.. .

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No .. *(Interruptions)*.. .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Just a minute ... *(Interruptions)*... Just listen to me... *(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): He has raised a point of order. Let me react to it. *(interruptions)* None of these interruptions will go on record. Now, let me respond to Mr. Malaviya's point of order. You misunderstood what I said. I simply said, what the rules are and how the rules have been changed, that is for the Government to decide. The only point I made was since it was a regional language film it would have been better for the audience which included me if there had been subtitles, as is the practice for all regional language films. What is the objection? Therefore, the

point of order is irrelevant, it is out of order and it is totally uncalled for. Now, Dr. Jain, what is your point of order?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : My point of order is this. Can the Chair associate itself with an issue.. .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I have already ruled it out of order. It is irrelevant. I have already clarified it. You were not listening. Please sit down. It is absolutely irrelevant.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA-JI (Andhra Pradesh) : Pandeyji, you know very well, in that film, "Daana Veera Shoor Kama", a highly Sanskritised Telugu has been used which cannot be subtitled.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Please sit down. You cannot rise up a point of order to clarify the substance of the film. It is for the audience to decide. Now I call Shri Ratna Bahadur Rai for his special mention.

Demand for inclusion of Nepali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution

SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, the demand for inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution has remained a battle cry for the millions of Nepali-speaking citizens of India for about four decades. This demand was not prompted by the interest of getting cultural, educational and administrative privileges or facilities alone., but the aspiration of the millions of Nepali-speaking citizens of this country was to secure a national recognition of their ethnical identity. It was for their emotional, rather cultural, integration or assimilation

with other linguistic or cultural groups of this country. Sir, several speeches were made in Parliament on earlier occasions to advocate the urgency of its constitutional recognition. I need not repeat them. It is a language of Indo-Aryan origin with a rich and prosperous literary heritage. It is spoken in the entire Himalayan and sub-Himalayan region, including nearly ten States of the country by a sizeable population. In Sikkim and West Bengal it is treated as Official Language. It is used as a medium of instruction in a number of Universities inside and outside the country. It is one of the internationally accepted medium of media. World renowned linguists like Dr. Surjit Kumar Chatterjee also had accepted the competence and viability of this language and approved it as one of the 15 major languages of India. Written in Devanagari script this has much in similarity with Hindi. So it can easily fulfil the conditions as stipulated in Article 351 of the Constitution.

Sir, as I mentioned earlier, for four decades the Nepali-speaking people throughout the country have been raising their voice for this demand. In Parliament itself, this demand was placed in various forms of Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc. On 22nd December 1971, a Memorandum signed by 74 MPs was submitted to the then Prime Minister. MPs from almost all the political parties had appended their signatures. And State Assemblies of West Bengal, Sikkim and Tripura passed unanimous Resolutions demanding the constitutional recognition of Nepali language and forwarded the same to the Central Government. Besides political parties under the leadership of Akhil Bharatiya Nepali Bhasha Samiti several peaceful movements were organised. Memoranda were submitted and deputations were sent to the successive Prime Ministers. The demand was denied on one or other pleas. Sometimes the ruling clique even attempted to dis-

rupt the movement and push the demand to wilderness. But time and again, the movement was re-organized again in a more vigorous shape and spirit.

Sir, as on earlier occasions, recently in reply to my queries I was told by the Government that non-included languages also were treated equally like recognized ones, which was not more than an exercise of hoodwinking. It is my earnest request to the Government, through you, Sir, for greater national interest, that they must do away with all the suspicion from the hearts of the minority communities or ethnic groups. Mere lip service will not suffice or false promises or hoodwinking will not work. The growing ethnic unrest in different parts of the country should open our eyes before it is too late.

The denial or denying tactics on the part of the Central Government has naturally created a deep resentment among the Nepali-speaking citizens all over the country. Hundreds and thousands of meetings are being organised throughout the country, particularly in West Bengal and Sikkim. Almost all the political parties and cultural organisations are preparing for mass movements. The Chief Minister of Sikkim is even threatening to resort to fast-unto-death to press this demand. (*Time Bell rings*).

Hence, considering the gravity of the situation I request the Government through you to accept this demand of constitutional recognition of Nepali language, and heal the years' old wound of deprivations and alienation from the minds of millions of Nepali-speaking citizens of India.

Thank you.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal) : I support this demand.