

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She does not have to go to Bangalore very often.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Anyway, I hope that they will support his demand of mine that between Bangalore and New Delhi there should be a direct air service. Shri Gopal-samy is coming and I am sure he too will support this demand of mine.

Finally, before I conclude, Madam, I would like to say that many places in the south are being neglected by the Indian Airlines. They should be connected more and more with places in the north by air. There has been a demand for an airstrip at Tirunelveli which has not yet come about. There has also been a demand for an airstrip at Coimbatore and at Salem, where there is an existing airstrip. More than four years have gone by and the runway has not been extended. It is said that it is going to be completed by 1987-88 with the result that people cannot travel to or from Coimbatore. Therefore, I strongly demand that the Indian Airlines should be toned up and, more than that, a direct air service from Madras to New Delhi in the morning should be introduced immediately.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I find that there is a lot of cooperation between AIADMK and DMK today.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Only on certain issues; that depends on the issue.

REFERENCE TO: NEED TO TRANSLATE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN INDIAN LANGUAGES, AND PLEA TO INCLUDE COMPOSITION OF SUBRAMANYA BHARTI NATIONAL SONGS.

MISS JAYALALITHA (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I thank you for allowing me to make special mention in the House. It is of special relevance because the national Independence Day Celebration on August 15 is due to be observed

all over the country, just 3 days from today.

It is a said fact but true that most Indians do not know the words of our National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana...' Many cannot proceed beyond the first opening line of the song. Even amongst those Indians who know the entire song and can sing it, most of them do not understand the meaning of the words. They just recite the song like parrots from memory.

Therefore, I feel it is an urgent necessity to have our National Anthem translated into all the regional languages of India, as well as English. The original text with the translations must be made easily available to all and must be declared compulsory for teaching in schools, so that in future while singing the National Anthem in its original form, Indians can understand the meaning of what they are singing.

I emphasise once again that the National Anthem must always be sung only in its original form. But since it is composed in Bengali, I suggest that translations be made available in all regional languages, so that Indians who do not know Bengali can understand it.

I would also like to remind and bring to the notice of the Government of India that Subrahmanya Bharati was our greatest poet of freedom. He identified himself totally with the freedom struggle and dedicated his whole life to the struggle for freedom. His songs are full of impassioned patriotic fervour. Songs like 'Vande Matar-am' in Sanskrit composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya, and 'Saare Jahaan se achha, Hindustan humara' composed by Iqbal, are accorded the status of national songs and are included in the repertoire on all important occasions such as Independence Day, Republic Day etc., when national songs are sung. It is a great pity that not even one song composed

by Subrahmanya Bharati has been included in the repertoire of national songs by the Government of India. So many songs composed by Subrahmanya Bharati are full of such impassioned patriotisms that no one who hears them can fail to be moved and stirred. Bharati's songs are full of the glory of India and they very lucidly and clearly propaagate the ideal of national integration, and the importance of national unity.

There are many poetic gems to choose from the treasuretrove of songs that Subrahmanya Bharati has bequeathed to us, and which ought to be cherished as a national legacy. Though Bharati's poems were composed in Tamil, his vision was always that of a glorious united India and his songs are truly national in content and character.

To quote one example, there is a song which says:

Bharatha Desam Enru Payer Solluvar
Midi Bayankolluvar Thuyar Pagai
Velluvar Velli Pani Malaiyin Meethu-
lavuvom Adi Melai Kadal Muzhuthum
Kappal Viduvom Palli Thalam Anai-
thum Kovil Seiguvom Engal Bharatha
Desam Enru Tholl Kottuvom

Another song begins thus:

Paarukkulle Nalla Naadu
Engal Bharatha Naadu

When translated the meaning is just the same as

"Saare jahan se achha, Hindustan
hamaara"

Of course the rest of the song is different, but it is all about the glory of India.

There are many other beautiful, inspiring songs to choose from such as "Vande Mataram Enbom . . . and so on. Indeed, there is a wide choice.

Therefore, I make a strong plea to the Government of India to include at least one of the patriotic songs composed by Subrahmanya Bharati in

the repertoire of national songs sung on important occasions such as Independence Day, Republic Day etc. It will make the voice of India more truly representative of the entire nation, and it is the least the country can do to honour the great immortal poet who dedicated his whole life to the struggle for freedom. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO LOOTING AND BURNING DOWN OF MA HATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

SHRI RAOOF VALIJULLAH (Gujarat): I bring to the attention of the Government and of this august House the most dastardly act of looting and burning down the memorial the house where the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi lived in Durban, South Africa from 1893 to 1914. According to press reports, the looters destroyed the Library ripped off the books, and smashed fitting and mementas of Gandhiji's period as a young lawyer, in the city of Durban. The angry natives began their rage on Indians last Tuesday. Till today, there is no statement from the Government about the plight of the Indians there. Coming in the wake of the anti-Indian riots in Uganda, this gives cause for concern to all of us. Therefore, the Government should come out with a statement.

What is more shocking is that, according to some reports the white regime of South Africa is involved in encouraging the blacks to loot the property of their ethnic brethren, the Indian-owned shops and homes forcing scores of Indian families to flee. I would like to know, what is the fate of these families and what action has been taken by the Government to safeguard their life and property? Since we have no diplomatic relations with South Africa, I would like to know whether the Government will involve other international agencies, whether the Government has requested the International Red Cross to rush to the