

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. *(Interruptions)* I cannot force the Government in Zero Hour. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am only drawing the attention of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. We are repeatedly saying this. If you need a response from the Government on such issues, use other Rules which are given in the Rules of Procedure. In the Zero Hour, the Government is not bound by the Rules, because it is not given in the Rules. We cannot direct the Government to take action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not disputing your observation. The current controversy is going on in the country and some people have been arrested. The matter has been raised in the Zero Hour. I am requesting the Chair because there are other issues which are pending. If you permit us subsequently through a...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You give the notice. We will examine it on its merits.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will be examined on its merits. You give the notice. If you really feel like that, give a Calling Attention Notice or any other notice, we will discuss it.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is not a one-party issue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I fully agree with you. If this is such an important issue, and you want a discussion, you give a notice under the relevant Rules whether Calling Attention Notice or any other discussion, that will be considered.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, let us have a full-fledged discussion on it.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, can't you direct the Government for an all-party meeting?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a policy matter. The Chair will not be able to do it.

Agitation by lawyers demanding declaration of Tamil and other languages as languages of High Courts in respective States

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of all sections of the House and the Government to a different issue.

Despite heavy rains in Delhi, hundreds of advocates have come here from Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu for demonstration. Simultaneously, there are agitations going on in the State of Tamil Nadu. The issue is that Tamil should be declared as a language of courts, and it should be accepted as a language in the High Court. The Tamil Nadu Government has sent this proposal. All political parties have raised this issue. The issue is pending before the Home Ministry.

I demand that the Government, particularly the Home Ministry, should make efforts to get the presidential notification, so that Tamil can be used as a court language.

Sir, earlier the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court said, "The Supreme Court and all High Courts should have a common language. English should continue to be the language of the Supreme Court and all the High Courts until in due course Hindi becomes rich and ripe enough to take its place and regional languages should not be introduced as languages of High Courts."

I am glad that the Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by my friend Sudarsana Natchiappan has rejected this opinion of the former Chief Justice of India. Now the issue is pending before the Government of India.

Sir, my point is that Tamil is one of the classical languages of the country, of the world. Tamil is an internet language. Tamil has got an international dimension like other languages.

I demand that all the languages, which find place in the Eighth Schedule, should be declared as official national languages and they must all get promotion; Article 345 and Article 348 (2) should be brought into full effect; and the Government of India should not delay this matter further. I demand that the Government should expedite steps to get the presidential consent. It is pending before the Government. I do not know why the Government is delaying and dithering on this issue. I also urge upon the Government to revisit the language question. Now, all the languages in the Eighth Schedule are called as national languages. But, there is no Constitutional backing to claim that they are all national languages. All these national languages, all the languages in the Eighth Schedule, should be declared as official languages and they must be allowed to be used in all aspects of administration in the respective States. They must be used in administration. They must be used in courts. (*Time-bell rings*) They must be used as medium of instruction. So, Sir, finally, I very strongly urge upon the Union Government to expedite it.

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is an important issue pertaining to the use of Tamil language in the High Court of Madras. Sir, a majority of law students write their examinations in English, in Tamil and a majority of law graduates who are relegated to the lower courts are not able to practice for want of proficiency in English. Therefore, the legal acumen of a majority of lawyers is going waste for the only reason of not knowing English. Sir, our Party Leader, Dr. Jayalithaji, has supported this issue and the agitating lawyers also. Sir, a Resolution was moved in the Legislative Assembly on 6.12.2006 and a proposal was sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu as well as the High Court of Madras for seeking concurrence of the President of India on this issue. Sir, the matter is pending with the Home Ministry for the

concurrence of the President of India. Sir, I wish to state that four States have been granted the status of official languages in the High Courts on the basis of article 348 (2) and Section 7 of the Official Languages Act. (*Time-bell rings*) Therefore, Sir, I urge upon the Government, the Home Ministry, to take urgent steps to obtain the concurrence of the President of India for use of Tamil language in the High Court. Thank you.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tiruchi Siva, one minute only.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, in 2006, after our leader assumed Chief Ministership, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution for the use of Tamil language in judgments, decrees, orders and other proceedings of the High Court of Madras under article 348(2) of the Constitution read with Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963. Sir, the same proposals with the recommendations of the Governor were sent to the Government of India for getting the consent of the President. At the same time, the High Court of Madras has also given its concurrence through a full court resolution and, in principle, has accepted that Tamil could be used as an official language. The Committee of Parliament on Official Language has also strongly recommended that the official language of the concerned State or Hindi shall be used in judgments, decrees and orders. (*Time-bell rings*) In spite of all these things, the Ministry of Law and Justice has returned the proposal for observation and information of you and through you, Sir, to the Government. Earlier, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan have exercised the same power and their official languages of the concerned States are used in the courts. Same proposal of West Bengal has been turned down. (*Time-bell rings*) The proposal of Tamil Nadu Government is pending. I urge upon the Government, the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Home Affairs, where it is pending, to take immediate initiatives to get the consent of the President to declare Tamil as a language of courts. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, all the regional languages must be given the status of official languages of the Union. Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I rise to associate myself with only one request that instead of waiting for the recommendation of the State Governments, the Centre should take initiative to see that all the mother tongues of different States be allowed as court language in their respective States so that people understand what they are hearing through advocates. They are not able to understand.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Raja.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Raja.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Raja.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate, but, the only point is, as Shri Venkaiah Naiduji said, the State Governments and the State Legislative Assemblies have recommended. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, that must immediately be done. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia. ...*(Interruptions)*... Zero Hour is converted into a debate. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think, we are derailing the well-accepted and appreciated Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Kurien, please. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Kurien, we are wasting our Zero Hour. We have a lot of work. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Spread of Swine flu in Orissa and Dengue in Delhi

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, Swine Flu HINI virus is spreading to all the districts in Odisha. Ten persons have died and 58 persons were detected HINI Positive, who are struggling for life in the hospital. One Shri Harihar Sethi, Additional Commissioner of Commercial Tax Department died, and his daughter, Mamuni Manosmita Sethi also died the next day. These 10 persons who died, belonged to Baragarh, Sambalpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, and nobody knows what is happening in the tribal areas like Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri and all these tribal-dominated areas, where people think that any fever means it is malaria or cold. No preventive measures are being taken. No vaccines are available. Now, it is said that 93000 vaccines have arrived in Odisha, and it is being said that these vaccines are given freely. But, in reality, they are charging around Rs. 400/- . They say that for 10 vaccines, they are charging Rs. 4000/- . Everywhere, they are charging money for this purpose. The State Government is not taking proper steps in this respect. It seems that the State Government is not very serious and the situation may become worse if precaution and preventive measures are not taken. Had it been a developed big State or metro city, it would have attracted everybody, including electronic, print media and all the agencies, including the Central Government. These people died because of carelessness of the State Government of Odisha. At present, swine flu is also surfacing in other cities of India.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to send a group of doctors and adequate vaccines and medicines to protect the people of Odisha from swine flu attack and also make adequate arrangement for the availability of free vaccines, not charging anything from the poor people in Odisha. Adequate arrangements should be made for medicines and vaccines for the proper treatment of people in the tribal and remote areas.

Similarly, Dengue fever has already started spreading in Delhi. Thirty people have died. It may have adverse impact on the Commonwealth Games. These people who are living in slums areas and the workers working at the Commonwealth Games sites and the metro railways, are