

[डा० भाई महावीर]

किसी पद पर चिपके रहने की कोशिश न
सफल हो ।

REFERENCE TO RECENT CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR DIRECTING STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO USE HINDI IN OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to bring to the notice of the Government the recent circular issued by the Chief Minister of Bihar asking that Government officials must use only Hindi in their business. The Chief Minister also said that if anybody was found using English, he would be severely penalised. Sir, our Government is talking about the three-language formula, but the Chief Minister of Bihar is talking about only one-language formula. In South India we are having three languages. In Andhra, Karnataka, Maharashtra we are having three languages. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu they are having only two-language formula. As far as All-India Services are concerned, in the offices officials from North India, the Hindi-speaking people, cannot transact business in Tamil or Telugu or any other language except in English. When it comes to Bihar where non-Hindi speaking officers of the IAS or the IPS or other all-India services are posted, if they are forced to transact their business only in Hindi, how is it possible for them to do so? They may be able to learn Hindi, they may be able to read and write Hindi. But it is very difficult to write official notes in Hindi. Therefore, the central Government must come forward and advise the Bihar Government not to impose this restriction. Even if the non-Hindi-speaking officers wish to learn Hindi and transact their business in Hindi, it will take at least three to four years for them to acquire the requisite standard in Hindi. All of a sudden the Bihar Chief Minister has passed

an order saying that anybody using English will be punished severely. This is very bad. If the same thing happens in Tamil Nadu tomorrow that the officials must transact official business only in Tamil, what will happen to the officials coming from the Hindi speaking areas? What will happen to the officials of the Hindi-speaking States posted in Andhra if tomorrow they are asked to transact official business only in Telugu? What will happen to these Hindi-speaking officers of the All-India Services if tomorrow in Karnataka the Government passes an order that they should transact business only in Kannada? Therefore, I request the Central Government to step into the matter because 'language' comes under the Home Ministry. The Central Government must advise the Chief Minister of Bihar to have two languages, English and Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Government is not in possession of information regarding the actual wording of the order. The honourable Member has stated quoting the order, "Any person using English will be severely dealt with". The Government is not in possession of the actual wording of the order. Therefore, it is very difficult to say whether this has been incorporated or not in the order . . .

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: It has come in the newspapers.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): Cannot the Government make an effort to get that wording? If the allegation is not correct, there should be a contradiction issued. The report has appeared in the newspapers. This is not a small matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us listen to what the honourable Minister has to say. Let him complete his statement.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: The position is like this. According to Article 345 of the Constitution,

“ . . . the Legislature of a State may by law adopted any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State,”

According to this Article a State is free, after due legislation, to adopt Hindi or any other language for the official purposes of that State. So far as the use of English is concerned, the same Article provides that,

“ . . . until the Legislature of the State otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.”

Since the Bihar Government has taken the step to authorise the use of Hindi for all official purposes, we presume that they would have done so after due legislation about the official language. This subject, however, is within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government strictly speaking does not come into picture. This has however been the policy of the Central Government that the use of the State languages should be progressively increased for the usual official purposes of the State.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: What will happen to the non-Hindi speaking officers who are working there?

SHRI S. D. PATIL: Government has not received any complaint from the IAS or IPS officers.

THE APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL, 1978—Contd.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I thank you very much for allowing me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Appropriation Bill. This happens to be my maiden speech in this House, though for about 15 years I have been participating in the discussions on Appropriation Bills in the other House. I deem it a great honour to be among the speech in this House, though for time in the discussion in this House. Very many matters stem from the Bill and many charges have been trotted out in this House. During the course of this discussion we get an opportunity to ventilate our grievances and to speak out frankly. Sir, this opportunity to speak out one's mind was not there for about 18 or 19 months. Now we are having it.

We welcome every kind of criticism—criticism that the Janata Party has failed in this respect or that respect. That does not unnerve me or others on this side. We, in fact, welcome open criticism and we feel that there should be availability of communication between this House and outside. Whatever I say here goes out of the House and I feel that is a great thing.

Sir, criticism does not kill a Government. In Tamil we have a couplet in TIRUKKURAL: “Idippa rai Illa Emara Mannan, Kednppar Ikanum. Kedum”. It says that a ruler who is devoid of hard critics shall destroy himself without anybody else destroying him. The Janata Party will go the same way, if they try to suppress criticism if they try to suppress dissent and then to suppress dissenters themselves. If Janata Party does not live upto the people's expectation, if Janata Party is not able to fulfil the promises given to the people, then it deserves not to be in the Government. It should be thrown out by the people and by the due process. If we have got a system where criticism is possible, where people can criticise the Government without fear and where