

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 5th December, 1968/
the 14th Agrayayana, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

N.C.C. TRAINING IN MADRAS

*379. SHRI A. D. MANI†:

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to discontinue N.C.C. training in the State of Madras; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) NCC training is largely suspended in Tamilnadu at the request of the State Government pending a decision on the State Government's proposal that the 'Words of Command' used in the NCC units in the State should be changed from Hindi to English. The correspondence which followed rests with a request to the Chief Minister to agree to the continuance of the *status-quo ante* in this matter.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I would have expected the hon. Minister for Defence to be present for an important question like this.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I will be able to answer. If you are not satisfied, then you can ask for the Defence Minister.

SHRI A. D. MANI : This is a very important question that is agitating the minds of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must take it that the Deputy Minister will be able to handle it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He is a very important Deputy Minister.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. D. Mani.

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MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not just that a senior parliamentarian like you should make such an allegation. A Deputy Minister is as good as the Minister and he is posted with all the information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are quite right.

SHRI A. D. MANI : I am putting the question. When once you have accepted the regional media as the language for the examinations of the U.P.S.C. in principle why should not the Government allow the local regional language to be used for these terms of command in the NCC? When once the language medium has been accepted what is the difficulty?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, on a point of order. This question does not arise out of this.

श्री राजनारायण : यह आप को डिस्टाइड करने का हक है कि कौन क्वेश्चन एराइज होता है, कौन नहीं। यह हक हमारे अर्जुन अरोड़ा साहब का नहीं है। यह अधिकार आप में सन्निहित है। मेरा औचित्य का सवाल है। क्या जो अधिकार आप में सन्निहित है उस पर भी प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर उठाने का अधिकार आप अरोड़ा साहब को देंगे। यह अधिकार आप में सन्निहित है। उन को आप बैठाइये।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : आप को अधिकार है तो मुझे भी कुछ अधिकार है।

SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR : Sir, on a point of order.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whenever anybody wants to say something he stands on a point of order. Now, let me hear exactly the reply of the Minister.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Sir, it is very well known that the NCC has to create the future leadership for filling the defence forces. We wanted to expand the NCC activities so that in case of any emergency we have readymade material to fill in the defence forces. Mr. Mani asks why we should not accept the regional language for the command words in the NCC. Sir, the NCC

command words have been in existence for the last eleven years before the Official Language Bill was even accepted by the House and therefore the Law Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry rightly felt that the words of command in the NCC should be those of the Defence forces so that there can be a universal command language for the entire country.

SHRI A. D. MANI : How many persons have been affected in terms of number by the suspension of the NCC in Madras? What is the total number of people who have ceased to get training under the NCC in Madras?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We had a very large number of NCC cadets in Madras. The senior wing...

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Figures do not matter.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, on a point of order. When I am asking a serious question, the hon. Member has no right to say that; the figures may not matter to him but they do matter to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in talking to one another when the gentleman is replying.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : In 1968 the number in the senior division was 30,982 and in the junior division 54,000. This includes about 2600 girl cadets in the senior division and 244 officers. There are 720 junior officers from the Madras NCC.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to tell hon. Members to see this paper containing questions. There is A. D. Mani and then Chitta Basu. So any other gentleman who wants to put a supplementary can only come in after I finish the names that are there. Now, Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, this question relates to the language which is to be used for the NCC command. May I know from the Government, when the question of language remains even today undecided, whether they will clarify its position in relation to the problem raised by the unequal burden on the people of certain parts of India as a result of Para 4(a) of the Language Resolution passed in this House

and in this respect may I know what steps have so far been taken by the Government for bringing about a national consensus?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I have already stated that we would like to have the language which is commonly understood in the whole country and the language which has been in use for a long time. I said that the Hindi words of command have been in use for the last eleven years and I do not think there was any State which found it difficult to pick up or understand the Hindi words of command. They have been in use in the NCC as well as in the defence forces.

Now one correction I would like to make; the girl cadets from Madras number 2600 and 7100 juniors.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I had raised a different question. It is known that the NCC uses a particular language for the command words.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Not particular language; it is the national language.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : But a question has been raised by the Tamil Nad Government that they do not want the Hindi language to be used for the command words of the NCC as a matter of policy. That is not only a point raised by the Tamil Nad Government. There is a persistent demand in the country that the inequality of the burden due to 4(a) of the Language Resolution has to be removed. That is the point. What is the Government's point of view regarding that and what steps have so far been taken by the Government? Unless some step is taken this problem would continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given a reply. It may not be satisfactory to you but he has given a reply.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Is it a fact that this matter was referred by the Centre to the State and the Chief Minister of Madras expressed that the command words being in Hindi, it would be difficult for the students to follow and was it the reason why the Chief Minister wanted retention of the English language for the NCC?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Sir, it is true that the Chief Minister of Madras

said that it would be difficult for the Tamil Nad youth to understand the words in Hindi but I think the Chief Minister was not fair to the best fertile brains of Tamil Nad because so far in the NCC several of the best trophies, right from the start of the NCC till 1968, have gone to Madras. Even when we had to select certain boys to go to foreign countries on an all-India basis, out of four two were from Madras. Apart from this we get about 150 officer cadets for the defence forces from Madras and from 5,000 to 6,000 recruits . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Minister is answering the question like a Ministerial cadet.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : . . . for the three wings of the defence forces. Well, all these people have something with the N.C.C., where most of the commands are in Hindi. So to say that the Hindi words of command cannot be understood in Tamil Nadu may not be correct.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : In view of the convincing replies given by the Deputy Minister I would now request Mr. Mani to withdraw the objection he earlier took to the Deputy Minister giving the replies to the Question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Yes, Sir; he has replied very well and I withdraw my earlier objection to the Deputy Minister giving replies to the Question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : As Mr. Mani withdraws his objection in this case for once in his life, well, he may withdraw many other objections in future, it seems.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Now coming to my question, Sir, the problem is pertaining to my State and also our party, the D.M.K. and also our party Government in Tamil Nadu. That is why I want to put supplementaries but with certain explanations. So far as the State of Madras is concerned, the NCC course not only comes under the Defence portfolio; it also comes under the portfolio of the Ministry of Education here because it relates to the training given to the students there. So this must be considered not as a problem regarding only Defence, but also Education. *(Interruptions)* In our State they may be interlinked, but it comes under different Departments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put the question.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Yes, Sir, I am coming to it. In our State we have taken definite decisions regarding Education. We want only Tamil and English. We have so decided and we have passed a Resolution to that effect unanimously. Such a decision has been conveyed to and is before the Centre. What is the attitude of the Centre, we do not know, but we have definitely stated that we want only two languages, that is, Tamil and English. We do not want to follow the three-language formula. We are not following it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But why are you making a speech without putting questions?

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Only the two-language formula we have adopted. I have raised twice questions regarding this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I will come to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You want the commands to be in English.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : My party is concerned and that is why I have to put questions and I shall come to the questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In effect you want the commands to be in English. The Minister has explained the whole thing. There was enough of discussion about it. What is the use of your proceeding with your question? You may say that you want the commands to be in English, not in Hindi.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : My first question is this, I want to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that Madras State has taken a definite decision that they want only two languages so far as Education is concerned. My second question is . . . *(Interruptions)* No, no, he must answer whether he is aware of it or not. My second question. . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Why a second question?

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : The Chair is there; you are not here to command me.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Two supplementaries? He cannot put two supplementaries.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is not for the hon. Member to say. The Chair is there.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : The Chair is here for the conduct of the business of the House, and no Member is entitled to interrupt or to command me. I am on my feet. The Chair is there, and if I go wrong, the Chair will correct me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, but I also feel that you should be relevant.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Every Member is entitled to interrupt.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let him put his second question. Otherwise he will take more time.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : My second question is this. In safeguarding the security of the country we should not import etymological enmity in the problem of defence. I want to know why the Ministry is vacillating and hesitating in the question of allowing English to be used for words of commands in the N.C.C. in my State where they have decided that they want only English, not Hindi, in this regard.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Our main concern in whatever we do in this regard, whatever training we give, it should not in any way hamper the future of our defence forces. Only with that anxiety in view, we wanted the Madras Government to fall in line with the rest of the country and see that no State suffers in sending their best people to the defence forces.

Now about the Resolution we are quite aware; they have passed a Resolution abandoning the N.C.C. All that the State Government or the State Legislature can do is to restrict their financial expenditure, etc., but they cannot say that the N.C.C. cannot function in any State. That is the question.

RE STARRED QUESTION NO. 380

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Before the Prime Minister replies to the question I would like to draw your attention to two sub-clauses in Rule 47(2) of the Rules of Procedure. This is clause (iii):

"if it contains a statement the member shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement ;"

And this is clause (xvii) :

"It shall not require information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference ;"

Now as far as the second is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister had made a comprehensive statement on the Soviet arms aid to Pakistan, and that explained the Government point of view, and that Statement was available to all the Members.

And now the second point is that the question pre-supposes that the article written by Dr. Husain Zaheer is one in which he has justified the Soviet arms aid to Pakistan. I would like to know from the hon. Member, through you, Sir, in what way, which sentence of the statement justifies the stand which is alleged to have been put in the mouth of Dr. Husain Zaheer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I would also like to join in the point raised by the hon. Member.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Am I expected to get the reply to my question from the hon. Member, Mr. Bhargava?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am a little surprised that an article written by a citizen of India in a particular paper has been called into question on the ground that perhaps he happens to be the Chairman of the National Research Development Corporation. Now, as far as we find from the article in question, it has been written by him as an individual, and in that article an opinion, theoretically, has been given. How it becomes a matter of question and answer in the House, I cannot understand.

As far as the views are concerned, of course the views are well known, our views, Government views and everybody's views. Therefore, Sir, I do not

know what is the purpose. You want to save the time of the House, and I believe that we can have our opinions. My friend can give a good reply to this in his paper, the 'Organizer'.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR : It is not the 'Organizer'; it is 'National Herald'.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I have put the question and it has not been replied to, and before the Prime Minister has given the reply, the hon. Member Mr. Bhargava, has had his own say in the matter. (Interruptions) I shall read out the quotations which are relevant from my point of view.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now, Sir, it is for you to give a ruling. If you ask that the Question be proceeded with, let us proceed with it, because I would also read out other quotations, and I see nothing wrong in the arms supply. I have also got the article, which can be discussed. Let the Question proceed.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारा प्वाइन्ट यह है कि आपने भार्गव साहब को आज्ञा प्रदान की कि वे अपनी बात उठायेँ सवाल पूछे जाने से पूर्व तो भार्गव साहब की जो आपत्ति है उसपर आप को अगर कुछ कहना नहीं है तो आपने क्यों उनको इतना समय नष्ट करने दिया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I see the reasonableness of the objection, but I feel that the question may be answered.

ARTICLE BY CHAIRMAN NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*380. **DR. BHAI MAHAVIR† :**

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

SHRI J. P. YADAV :

SHRI PREM MANOHAR :

SHRI PITAMBAR DAS :

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the article written by Shri Husain Zaheer, Chairman,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

National Research Development Corporation, in which he has justified the Soviet arms aid to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government approve of the views expressed therein; and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take to stop such senior officials from expressing views contrary to Government's policy in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :
(a) Yes, Sir, our attention has been drawn.

(b) and (c) The views expressed by the writer in the article in question reflect his personal views. So far as Government's own policy on the question is concerned, it was made clear by the Prime Minister in her statement in the Rajya Sabha on July 22, 1968 (See below).

Dr. Husain Zaheer is associated with the Corporation in an honorary capacity; he is not a regular employee of Government.

STATEMENT

I have already publicly expressed my own and the Government's concern at the Soviet intention to supply arms to Pakistan. This concern has been voiced throughout the country. We have also conveyed our feelings and reactions to the Soviet Government.

2. Before I refer to the exchanges which have taken place between the Soviet Union and ourselves on this subject, I should like the House to bear in mind that international relations, as a whole, are in a particularly fluid state at the present time. The old landmarks, the rigid divisions between rival blocs, appear to be in the process of disintegration, although they have by no means disappeared. Every nation, whether member of a bloc or not, is trying to assert its own individuality in the conduct of its policies. The USA and the Soviet Union, conscious of the need to reduce the danger of a direct clash between them, are evidently reshaping their policies in accordance with the changing conditions. In these circumstances, our policy of peace and friendship with all, and of freedom to