

Madras was free to correspond with the Centre in English, but no objection could be taken to other States corresponding in Hindi and they would be equally free to do so.

MEMORANDUM

TAMIL NADU STUDENTS ANTI-HINDI AGITATION COUNCIL

Madras

August 28, 1967

MRS. PRIME MINISTER,

We the students of Tamizhagam place before you the following points and facts for your consideration ?

Since 1937, we have fought for our linguistic right. Thousands of our youngmen had laid their lives at the altar of our linguistic freedom. Many had performed self-immolation. The climax was reached in 1965 when the movement had assumed great proportions. After these events, we, the people in the South, had hoped that reason would prevail and all attempts to force Hindi would be given up. But contrary to our expectations and much to our horror we learn that this evil is again raising its heads.

Ours is a quasifederal form of Government. Therefore it is highly undesirable that one of the fourteen languages, namely, Hindi is given the status of the official language for all India purposes. If the Government insists on giving Hindi the status of a link language we have no alternative than to demand the same status for Tamil. Your Government considers that English is a foreign language. To the people of South, Hindi is as much foreign as English.

Under these circumstances, we feel that the only way of ending the language controversy is to amend the Seventeenth part of the Indian Constitution in such a way as to give English the status of the sole link languages of the Indian Union.

We regret to place before you that we cannot accept the three language formula which we consider a clever trick by the Hindi fanatics to deceive the South. We feel that it is designed to accord Hindi the status of the official language. So we want that the entire scheme must be scrapped immediately.

Lastly, there can be only one thing either Indian Unity or Hindi as the Official Language. If you want us to choose between these two we will prefer Indian Unity not Hindi. If on the other hand attempts are made to impose Hindi in the name of Unity, we will not rest until all efforts to force Hindi on us are abandoned completely. Finally we warn you that you should not make the *secession* of Tamil Nadu from the Union as the final solution to the language controversy.

By,

Tamil Nadu Students Anti-Hindi
Agitation Council

†ABOLISHING THE 'P' FORM

476. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Study Group which was set up by Government to examine the possibility of abolishing the 'P' Form for Indian going abroad has completed its work and submitted a report to the Government;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Study Group in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have taken a final decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) to (c) No Study Group was set up either by the Government or by the Administrative Reforms Commission to examine the possibility of abolishing 'P' form for Indians going abroad. However, the Study Team on Economic Administration set up by the Administrative Reforms Commission, has among other recommendations, suggested the abolition of 'P' Form. A copy of the report of the Study Team has been placed in the Parliament Library. The recommendations contained in that Report are for the Administrative Reforms Commission to consider. The Commission has yet to submit its recommendations on the subject to the Government. The question of the Government taking any decision on the recommendations of the Study Team does not arise at this stage.

†Transferred from the 28th November, 1967.