

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

is reduced, there is going to be scarcity of fish in West Bengal. As you know, Sir—you will sympathise with us—we, Bengalis, are absolutely down and out if we do not have fish. Well, such a situation has been created and I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to withdraw the customs duty and other things so that we get the requisite supply of fish from East Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the same thing holds good here also. I have received the notice and I have passed it on to Government. As soon as I get their reactions, I shall decide.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Bengali people will be very grateful to you if you help them to get their fish.

श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, एक नोटिस मैंने भी दिया है। कुछ उन्होंने चर्चा की है, मैं भी कर दू। वैसे बिना आपकी इजाजत के करना नहीं हूँ।

श्री सभापति : आप अपने उसूल को क्यों तोड़ते हैं ?

श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी : अगर एक सदस्य को छूट दी जायेगी, तो दूसरे सदस्यों को उस छूट के मांगने से रोका नहीं जा सकता।

श्री सभापति : मैंने आपको रोका नहीं। जो कहना चाहिये, कह दीजिए।

श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, मैंने एक नोटिस दिया है। कल गुजरात की विधान सभा में विरोधी दल के नेता ने यह गृहस्योद्घाटन किया है कि पाकिस्तान ने कच्छ के इलाके में 13 हजार एकड़ भूमि पर कब्जा कर लिया है। गुजरात की सरकार ने इसका कोई खंडन नहीं किया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस बात का खंडन करे कि

क्या यह सच है कि कच्छ के इलाके में पाकिस्तान के कब्जा जारी है और उन्होंने 13 हजार एकड़ हमारी जमीन पर कब्जा कर लिया है। यह एक सार्वजनिक महत्व का विषय है और इसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार की ओर से बयान आना चाहिये।

DISCUSSION ON THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY OF THE GOV- ERNMENT—continued

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would now request the Home Minister to reply to yesterday's debate.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not recall on this occasion the horrifying, painful, distressing details of the events which occurred in some parts of the country and which form a sombre background for the discussion on the subject of language in Parliament. It is fortunate that violence has abated and one may feel relieved to know that the students in Madras have withdrawn the agitation formally and have said some sensible things on this occasion. But still agitation in some form continues; I hope that will also stop. I may refer to the spirit of retaliation which has been evident in the last three days. It may be that the manifestations are rather not prominent, not on a large scale, but still these things have dangers, hidden dangers, which may come up to the surface and there may be a worsening of the situation. We do not want to have the kind of things, which we faced sometime ago, repeated in this country in any form like the effacing of sign boards, burning of books and so on. At one time it was Hindi books and now it is English books, but these are all books which belong to this country and it is the property of this country. No good is done to this nation and I do not believe that any good is done to anybody by this kind of method. Sir, I would make this appeal again on this occasion that this is not the

way at all, not the kind of answer that has to be given to the most undesirable developments which occurred in other parts. The answer has to be in some other form. It has to be considered in a calm atmosphere and then alone a positive outcome can be expected, can be looked for.

Sir, there is some limitation in dealing with this subject here this morning. Talks in this connection are proceeding in various forums, at various levels, and I would not like to anticipate those conclusions. It is, of course, very clear that whatever shape the recommendations take, the recommendations of any body they have to come to Parliament for approval. These discussions should be held in a cordial atmosphere, in a spirit of give and take, of mutual accommodation and I hope there is a basis—I should say assurance—for a harmonious solution being found for the differences which have been noticed recently. That solution must harmonise the needs and interests of everybody, the needs and aspirations of all sections of the community, because all of us, all communities, all our aspirations, interests and needs must have their play and have their being in the vast body of this nation. Therefore it is imperative that our consideration of any problem has to be in relation to the good of the people, the interests of the nation as a whole.

When we approach this problem from that standpoint, then everything falls in its proper place and can be seen in its proper perspective. It is in this way that we have also to judge the question of language. Language or any other problems that we may be facing have to be related to some purpose in the life of the nation and today the overriding purpose, the overriding objective, is that this nation must stand united. Everything possible should be done to promote the unity of this nation, its solidarity, because the problems that we are facing on all sides—internal and external—call for strength and there can be no strength without unity. Therefore if at any time there was need for all of us to stand united, it is now. Therefore in dealing with this problem we have to be sure

that we do not do anything which will undermine that unity and solidarity of this nation.

Those who think of certain advantages for themselves, for a section, have also to bear this in mind that out of the unity of the nation prosperity can grow and the share out of it, which can be made available to everybody, will be far more than anything else they can gain by making a bid for it, irrespective of the larger interests of the nation or at the expense of that unity. I realise one thing. When I say that all have to keep that in the forefront and everything else has to be subordinated to the larger goal of developing the solidarity of the nation, I realise that there is another condition. Unity can only be there if there is a sensation that all the parts of the nation are having justice, that justice is being done, that is, everybody's needs, everybody's interests and welfare are being considered by those who are in charge of the affairs of the nation. So far as this language is concerned, I would apply the same test. It is not simply that justice should be done, but as is oft repeated there should be a conviction that justice is being done, it should be felt that it is being done. I realise, I understand that language is not something which we can deal with in an offhand manner. Language is a way of life of a community. It is the vehicle of the cultural heritage of the people and, therefore, certain emotions grow around the subject and we have to respect the sensitiveness which develops in connection with this subject.

And may I submit that in dealing with this question of language over the years this has been the approach, this has been the attitude? It is on this basis that the policy regarding language has been evolved in the course of these years. This has been the basis. The widest consensus had been secured for the evolution of the language policy at various stages beginning with the Constitution. Then, there was the Official Language Act. I do not want to take up the time of the House in recounting all the various stages through which the language policy has passed. There may have

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been discussions, there may have been arguments. The pros and cons have been examined. But ultimately the decision was on the basis of unity of the people, of the representatives of the people of this country. I believe that the discussions in this House and in the other House have not touched at all that common basis, that consensus in any adverse way. That is, that consensus has remained so far as the essential elements of that policy are concerned. Therefore, that policy remains fully intact.

I may explain some of the major elements of that policy. There is an impression—not a very correct impression—that in this language policy the main thing was Hindi becoming the official language and later on a certain place for English. The major thing that has happened in this country as a result of independence, as a result of the Constitution, is that the regional languages have come into their own. That has been a more vital change, a bigger change and it is going to have its impact. We may say one thing or other, but it is going to have its impact on everything else and that is a thing which is not being fully understood.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Handicap also, all of them.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: The hon. Member is always labouring under one handicap or another, but I have to proceed and inform the House. It is in the Constitution, part XVII. It is not recalled frequently, it is not kept in mind that there is Chapter II which deals with the languages of the States. There you have got the list of fourteen languages. Of course, there also I agree that in the earlier stages not enough was done for the development of those languages. I also agree that not enough was done during these seventeen years for Hindi.

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम सुभग सिंह) : बिल्कुल नहीं हुआ है।

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: It may be that because of these facts we are today encountering all these problems and the difficulties that we are facing. We might have solved them easier and better. Sir, what is happening in the States? The regional languages are becoming more and more the medium of instruction and they are growing in their capacity—in that role year after year. They are being used more and more in the Assemblies of the States. Their use for official purposes of the States also is being extended. Now, this is a thing in which, if we ignore the consequences and implications, we again will have another bigger problem to face. The fact is that English, I do not know, God knows—of course, I am sorry that in the hon. Member's presence I am mentioning God and he might possibly take offence at it . . .

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: They have greater faith in God.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: How long will it take to displace, to completely oust English from the Central administration? English is being steadily displaced so far as the regions are concerned. So far as the States are concerned, its place would be taken by the regional languages and the consequence will be, if nothing else is done quickly, nothing else to match that in other fields, there will be isolation, one State functioning in isolation from another State. We will be split into compartments. That will not be a nation. That will not mean a united nation. It would be a very tenuous bond that would remain. Therefore we have obligations—obligations for the States and the Centre—as regards what can be done about the problem that is looming large before us. In that connection other things arise. Now, the official language of the Union has to be for the sake of efficient administration. What is that for? All the aspects of the question will have to be examined from that angle. Apart from the question that whatever it is it has to be just and equitable for everybody concerned, the more important thing is the link language. What is going to be the link language for the various people of the country, when the regional lan-

guages develop and dominate the scene so far as the States are concerned? The link language, again, has to be viewed in two aspects. We have heard very much about the official use of it, but the much more important part of it is the use of that language by the people. Apart from the official use, there is the people's use. There are the common people. Then, there may be the use of the link language at the higher intellectual and scientific levels. This is, again, apart from what the Government may be thinking of it for its official purposes. Regarding the link language, I have to say that it is very much recognised and it is not the Constitution or the Official Language Act. That does not come into the picture there.

No one can force on the people a language, so far as they are concerned, as the means of communication between one part and another, and it is there that English by no means can be expected to have that role at all. For such a long period it could not develop like that and hereafter it cannot. Therefore, the people's language for inter-communication has to be some Indian language. The Constitution has decided that, we have all agreed to it, no further question arises on that: therefore, it is not a question of law.

The hon. Member here has said about the notice boards. He feels more at home in Australia etc. where he can see English boards, where it is written in English. But I believe that simply being able to read a notice board in all parts of the world does not make a person a citizen of the world, and there is something more than all the need that there is for a person to be able to read a notice board. There is communication. That communication cannot be otherwise than in Hindi. We have again to be sure of our ground there. This cannot be imposed. Here it is not a question of any law or anything which can impose it on the people of the country. The people who care for Hindi, those who speak Hindi, they must understand it. They cannot force it. The pace of acceptance of Hindi cannot be forced. It has to be a natural growth, it has to be fostered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What was the Home Ministry doing?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I can tell you what the Home Ministry has been trying to do. I will tell you about that also. This is an independent plan apart from the Government. It is the way the people come into the picture. It can be fostered; the growth of the link language for the people can be much faster; then comes its progress in official circles, for official purposes. When that has gone ahead, it will have its reaction, it will again have its bearing on further progress of Hindi for purposes of official uses. What is required here is co-operation and stimulation and, as I said before, this has to be done adequately.

I may say, Sir, for myself that I do not claim to be a Hindiwalla. My mother tongue is Punjabi. Years ago I drifted away from my moorings, earlier. My adopted language is Gujarati and my knowledge of Hindi is very indefinite. Therefore, I have no emotional attachment this way or that way and I can therefore look at these things from a fairly objective point of view. I may say to those who are protagonists of Hindi that the language which is going to be the link language, the language of the people, the people's Hindi, they may not like it very much but it will grow in its own way. The current coins of that language will be picked up from various sources of the nation so that every part of the country will recognise in that language something of its own. This is going to be developed whether we want it or not. If we allow things to move in their own way, this is what is going to happen where one can of course try to help in some way. The tendencies are such that the contribution that comes from every source can be assimilated properly.

For more advanced uses, I do not want to take up that question here.

Then, there is the question of the official language. There it is a matter of special

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consideration. There are the people in the Services. Their readiness, their capacity, their convenience has to be consulted, has to be considered, and therefore the pace of any further adoption for any purposes in the matter of Hindi will have to be adjusted to their capacity. I am talking of those who are already in the Services, and that has to be taken care of, fully assured.

So far as the new entrants are concerned, there must be equitable treatment. There should be no feeling at all, no apprehension at all either in regard to the use of Hindi for official purposes or the question of the Unoin Public Service Commission examinations that will lead to any kind of disadvantage or handicap being created in any part of the country, anywhere. These are the principles, this is the attitude. The question is of course as to how we are going to implement all that. One thing seems to be obvious that in this matter also there will be no force used, no imposition, and the pace will not be forced. There will be a period of prolonged bilingualism. It cannot be helped. So far as the people who have been speaking in the name of Hindi are concerned . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will you kindly tell us exactly what percentage of your senior officials and other officials in the Secretariat know Hindi? What is the last percentage? I have before me an article "Hindi: Home Ministry in a hurry" by Mr. K. Rangaswamy in the "Hindu" of yesterday and many examples are given. We gather that a large number of them do not know Hindi and are not in a position to deal with files if Hindi is used. How are you going to tackle it? As far as the Council of Ministers is concerned, we find that 28 out of 53 of the Council of Ministers are not in a position to speak what is called possibly Hindi, in dealing with the subject in the way they deal with it in the other language.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I have mentioned that. Therefore, I include among the people in the Services the Ministers in service also, and things have to be adjusted

also. But there are two sides to it. One is, as I have been emphasising, that the success and the speed and the effectiveness with which Hindi is going to progress will depend not on the insistence of the Hindi States or the Hindiwallas but on the receptivity of the persons who belong to what are called the non-Hindi States. It is in their hands, the building up of the language in this country either for official purposes or for the people now. One language, that will be in the hands of the non-Hindi people, and more than this it should be recognised that they have to build up the house of Hindi, the official language, and later may be our national link language has to be built by the non-Hindi people; it cannot be built by the Hindi people.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): May I respectfully draw the Minister's attention to this? I am sorry, twice or thrice he has used the word "Hindiwalla". He is falling a prey to the cheap slogans manufactured by others. It is this sort of language which makes us rigid and throws us into an attitude of opposition. You cannot get the best out of us by abusing us all the time.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I apologise and I agree. I was really mentioning "Hindiwalla" in the sense that people are being called "Hindiwallas" as if they are doing something which is very wrong, some sin is being committed, and I was saying that Hindi is to serve the nation. And therefore, when I used the word "Hindiwalla", I was mentioning about their being called "Hindiwalla", it is not that I wanted to say it otherwise.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Why not call "Englishwalla"?

(Shri A. D. Mani rose)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has not yielded. Mr. Nanda, Mr. Mani wants to raise a point, if you agree.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Yes.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : The hon. Minister said that the success of Hindi as a national or official language will depend on the nature of its being accepted by the non-Hindi-speaking people. I agree. But everything depends on the language of examinations of the UPSC. The point of view has been constantly put forward by the non-Hindi speaking people that the regional languages should be the medium of examinations of the UPSC. I should like to ask the Government whether they are considering this matter, particularly in view of the fact that the Parliamentary Committee which went into the question of the use of the official language had also suggested that the regional languages should be made the medium of examinations of the UPSC.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, I wanted to offer some personal explanation when the Minister referred to reading the notice-board. I did not want to interrupt him, that was why I kept quiet. But now since he has been interrupted, I may just as well say that he has taken me literally. I am sorry for it. I used that as a simple instance. I simply meant that one part of the country must be able to understand the other part of the country. That is all that I meant when I said about the notice-board; it is all that I meant, not otherwise.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Notice-board? I am sorry that he has taken it very seriously. The intention was—all that it can do is to make the people see the notice-boards. But those people will be very small in number and therefore, something more is required than a notice-board for a few not only to be able to read the sign-boards, and also it is something more. It was taken a little farther from that point.

Regarding this question of the U.P.S.C. examination, there was that decision finally taken that the examination should not be in all the regional languages because the process of moderation, of bringing the assessment, to a uniform standard is not an easy one. It is possible, it is now

being tried and I think uniformity will be achieved so far as English and Hindi are concerned. It may be possible some day, maybe there may be some other solution for it. (*Interruptions*) But that has been the decision that it will not be all the languages; for various reasons Government had come to that conclusion. That matter can be re-examined.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In that case, I would say that the people of Bengal and the South will have a complaint because others will be writing in their mother-tongue, Hindi, whereas they will not be in a position to write in their mother-tongue, even if it is English. The disparity comes when one set of candidates will be in a position to write in their mother-tongue and the other set, by and large, will not be able to . . .

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : He need not spend his energy more on that. The hon. Member had not cared to listen to the word 'moderation'; the concept of bringing the assessment on the basis of a common standard is the answer to that. There is a handicap, there will be some compensation provided for that. These are technical matters. There are devices to secure that result.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That moderation will never work.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : If it cannot, then it will be known. But those who are competent to speak on the subject have assured us that it is not something which we cannot face, something unique. This technique of moderation is well known in the world. It has been tried and I believe that we can successfully apply it here also.

I have said about one side, that is about the lovers of Hindi, those who care for Hindi, and they—why, everybody in the country—have a duty, as I said, not to force the pace, but others also have their duty. It cannot be one-sided. That is, the

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objective is that over a period and as early as possible—the period may be long but it has to be as early as possible—we have to come to that position when a language of the country takes its place as the official language and it becomes also such throughout. Then for that purpose efforts, earnest efforts, have to be made. That period is not too long, not longer than can be helped, and therefore steps have to be taken to ensure that there is a progressive use of Hindi. The condition having been already ensured that the pace will be adjusted, that no inconvenience will be caused, that no person who is already in service will suffer—and the new comers also—then we can see in all earnestness how far the national objective would be achieved, in what manner, at what speed, we reach towards that. It is the duty of all of us to see that this is done as quickly as possible and that all steps that are necessary are taken. It is not because in the Constitution one day it was put as '26th January'. We go to sleep over it for ten years and do nothing during those ten years, and at the end of the period we again find ourselves in the same position, and the same problem will be there. The problem has to be solved in certain terms and for it, it is better that vigorous efforts are made, earnest steps are taken, to solve that problem and to move earnestly towards it. This is the other part of the condition. It is both ways. We have got obligations on both sides. And it may be that what occurred in some parts of the country was not because something was not explained more fully at this stage. Everybody knew what was there coming. Who did not know that the Constitution provided for it? Who did not know that on a certain day, some changes would take place automatically? It is because over the years we have not been able to deal with this issue and create an awareness of what has to come and prepare for it. That was not done sufficiently. The question is not of a language, but of policy. The policy is there. Nothing that has happened has affected that policy—except in detail, it may be. About the implementation of that, the implementation Sir, is there. But . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Elaboration.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I will explain the various stages through which this language policy passed, and the latest was this. In the course of the last year, there were several stages, there were consultations with the Chief Ministers and others concerned about the steps that were to be taken, and I must reiterate here also that those steps were decided upon with the consent, the unanimous support and approval of all concerned and of the Chief Ministers of all the States . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When ?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Well, it was on December 13.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But there you did not discuss it. I have followed from the Press what exactly happened there.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : This Conference was there and there was a communique issued. And I must again repeat here, it was publicised fully in all the newspapers and it was reported in the papers of the South, especially in 'The Hindu' and generally in other papers in the South. And it was approved, it was felt to be a successful way of dealing with the matter, and there was no hint of any problem arising out of that. That was the situation at the end of last year. Then, where should any difficulty arise? We are told that something was done which created a problem. Nothing at all. I can say with very, very great definiteness, without any hesitation, positively. The Home Ministry has the responsibility of taking steps regarding the further implementation and of giving directions in this matter. Now, what was done there? Now, the hon. Member mentioned about my visit to Calcutta in connection with the Zonal Council meeting where this question was again taken up. That was on the 28th of January, Sir. I will read out :

"I have also given positive assurances publicly that :

(a) the process of introducing Hindi for the various official purposes of the

Union will be so regulated and developed as to cause no dislocation of Government work, and the minimum of inconvenience to people who are not sufficiently conversant with Hindi at present;

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(b) that knowledge of Hindi will not be prescribed as a qualification for entry into public services of the Union, but selected candidates will be required to study Hindi at a later stage; and

(c) correspondence between the Centre and non-Hindi-speaking States shall continue to be in English until they themselves desire a change. It was also agreed generally at the Chief Ministers' Conference held in December last that if any State sends a communication to the Centre in Hindi, the English translation will ordinarily be sent along with it in the interest of expeditious disposal of public business and with a view to avoid possible inconvenience to Central Government staff who do not know enough Hindi at present."

All the safeguards were there in it. Circulars and orders and forms, etc. which have been mentioned, I am still in search of. For example, to begin with, what did the Home Ministry do? Some newspapers have said something. Well, it is their privilege. It seems their privileges are even more than that of the Parliament.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : They have named the circulars.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I should know what the circulars are. The hon. Member is producing a newspaper cutting as if everything that a newspaper says is correct. I know what the Home Ministry has done or not done. There was no such circular, as was mentioned, at that meeting in Tiruchi on 17th January. There was no such circular. As it happens, I was present in Madras on the 23rd January and this was brought to their notice before the 26th. There and then I categorically repudiated that there was any such circular. And when I came here on the 25th, I was told

that some other Ministry had issued something. For example, there are two Ministries which have come into the picture.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Food Ministry.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Information Ministry.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : It was for internal use that Hindi will be coming more and more into use for official purposes. These are the designations of the various officials in Hindi corresponding to what they are in English. That was all.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : Why was that circular withdrawn, cancelled?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Because in the introduction the language used was ambiguous, and it was withdrawn to remove that ambiguity. There was nothing else in the circular.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : Even in the introduction it was not stated that only Hindi will be used. The word "only" was not there. Why was it cancelled?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : We wanted to use a better language. And, Sir, this was withdrawn.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Rangaswamy . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, he has not finished.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD (Nominated) : Mr. Rangaswamy should not be taken as authority.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Now there was another circular from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. This, I find, was not sent to the States. It was for internal use. That also was withdrawn before 26th. The fact of my stating in Madras twice, on the 23rd and

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25th, that there was no circular of the Home Ministry and that no other Ministry was authorised to issue a circular without the permission of the Home Ministry, is there. Therefore, if there is any misunderstanding that could have been removed. Therefore, there was really nothing. The hon. Member says, why did I say this? He has referred to one sentence in it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Two sentences.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : It is a day of great rejoicing for us, I repeat, that a language of the people comes into vogue in this way. Where is the harm?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You were celebrating the Republic Day.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH : And you were celebrating the Chinese Day.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is how you are going to do it.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Yes, I say you celebrated the Chinese Day in Kalimpong and Calcutta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are bullying your Congress Party. You can repeat.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Yes, I will repeat it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Men like you disrupt the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, this is not conducive to a healthy atmosphere . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : How do the Chinese come here ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : When you made that reference, nobody interrupted you. And now they want to give a reply. You should not interrupt.

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : अभी और मिलेगा, तब मालूम होगा ।

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : To begin with I did not take up the question of language first. What I said was that in many ways it was a difficult time for our country. For some time prices have been increasing. Food problem still remains to be solved. Many shortcomings have yet to be removed. I dealt with the whole of the economic problem. Then, finally I said :

"We have to understand the obstacles in the way of our progress and we have to take steps for their removal. In this context, the most important question in my view is the unity of our country. There is no problem which we cannot solve, if we move unitedly. The question of language has to be viewed in this light."

That is, Sir, how I began the broadcast after having dealt with the economic problems, and also from the point of view of national integration.

Sir, we can expect from him a different presentation. He suppressed all the other things. He did not mention them just as he mentioned some wrong things. I am not talking of his personal philosophy. I am talking of his political philosophy. I do not know whether at all he has respect for truth or it is there in a minimum quantity.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Read the opening sentence.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I have read it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Read the opening sentence.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : It is not the opening sentence. I will read it.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH : You ignore him totally.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar) : Can we meet after lunch hour? We are hungry. Therefore, we are excited.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I agree. Read the opening sentence.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : That is what I said. I would like to clarify because this question has come up again and again. What was the object of that broadcast? The object of that broadcast was not to announce this coming in of Hindi. That came in without my saying so. I wanted to utilise that occasion for giving assurances, and these are the assurances which I gave :

"India is a vast country, and it has many rich languages. They constitute our national treasure and it is necessary that they should be developed fully. It is necessary for national integration that we should have a common language of ours as a link language for purposes of communication between people belonging to different areas of our country. Since the last 150 years or so, English has been the common language of communication among the educated people of our country. Although, English does not reflect our traditions, its availability as a common language for purposes of intercourse among the educated sections of our population has helped to strengthen our national unity. I am confident that when Hindi, which is one of our own languages, becomes a common medium of communication among people belonging to different areas of the country, it will help to strengthen our unity even more.

I wish to make it absolutely clear that the propagation of Hindi and other Indian languages does not mean any opposition to English. English is a very

rich language; and it is spread over a large part of the Globe. It will continue to be of great help to us for our scientific and technical development, and also for maintaining contact with other countries. The educated people in India are already familiar with English; and it is also convenient to maintain English as an associate official language until people in non-Hindi-speaking areas are ready for a changeover."

This has been categorically made clear.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : "For all purposes the study in English will continue." This is in section 3 of the Act.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : English as an associate language, which means for all the purposes for which it is an associate official language. It should stay until the people in the non-Hindi-speaking areas are ready for a changeover. This was there. Everything was clear. As I said earlier, Hindi would take its place as the official language of the Union from that day. This does not involve any sudden change. People who are not conversant with Hindi will not be put to any difficulty or inconvenience as Parliament has already made provision by law for the use of English besides Hindi—the hon. Member says that there is no mention of the official language—for the official purposes of the Union. I give a public assurance on this occasion that the process of bringing Hindi into use for the various official purposes of the Union will be so regulate and developed that it does not cause difficulty in the transaction of official work or inconvenience to people who do not know Hindi at present. In determining the pace with which the changes are to be brought about, consideration will no doubt be given, among other things, to the spread of knowledge of Hindi in non-Hindi-speaking areas, and the extent of knowledge of Hindi of Government functionaries. The Central Government will also be careful that non-Hindi-speaking areas do not suffer in recruitment to Central services. It would not be necessary to

[Shri Gulzarilal Nanda.]

have prior knowledge of Hindi for entry into these services. They would be able to take advantage of the Hindi Teaching Scheme after their entry into service. The full development of Hindi as the all-India official language and the link language of India can be achieved only with the willing participation of people belonging to all regions.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh) : All these have already been broadcast.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : The hon. Member quoted part of my broadcast. I have to give the other part.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I point out the omission ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : There should be no interference.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I have now to come to the other part.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time will you need ?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Another ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the sense of the House ? Can you finish ?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Whatever you say. I can finish if you like.

SHRI A. D. MANI : We have got to ask something.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I will try to be brief. There are some wrong assumptions. Mistakes are dealt with

because there was a mistake made somewhere, may not be in the Home Ministry, and the mistake may have been a very slight mistake but still there it was, but it had no bearing on the situation as I have already explained. What shall I do about things which never existed ? It may have only existed possibly in the minds of some people and possibly not in their minds even then—I will not say fabricated but there it is. There is no circular, there is no form, nothing of the kind. The Railway Minister is here somewhere. It has been said that the Railways have issued tickets only in Hindi and that the Posts and Telegraphs Department have issued forms, M.O. forms, in Hindi. I have ascertained from them . . .

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY (Madras) : Yes, it is there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Facsimile was published . . .

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : They have not published or introduced any new forms for the last 7 or 8 years. Therefore whatever forms were there they have been there for a long time and nothing was done recently and the reason for those forms is . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs admitted that certain old forms were there which may have been issued, but did not know whether they are old or new . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gupta, please listen.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : They are there for various regions. Then other circulars are being mentioned. I cannot find any trace of them anywhere. Let the hon. Members produce something and I shall deal with them, but I can state here that they do not exist.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Madras) : Sir, I got a letter in Madras from the Director General of the N.C.C. in Hindi, including the address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a categorical statement of the Minister. Members who have some evidence may make it available and he will look into it.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Because some subordinate official, some official somewhere in some district of a State writes something, that is going to become the ground for creating riots—I am deliberately saying that—there is an art of creating riots and there is a technique. You start a rumour, maybe false—the falser it is, the better it is for the purpose—it has to be just spread or disseminated. A feeling is created and then what happens? I have been told by a very responsible or influential person, a highly placed person in the Madras University, that the sign there was the urchins coming up, starting slogans and the hooligans following it up. The rumour was 'Tamil was going to be replaced by Hindi, there will be no Tamil. You cannot speak in Tamil outside—maybe in the privacy of your home you may, but otherwise you cannot speak Tamil'. That thing was said everywhere . . .

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : Your opinion about the Tamil people is very poor, I am sorry to say. This agitation has been going on for the last two decades and our people are very well-informed. It is not because some nincompoops had started the rumour that people indulged in riots. It is not so. You are wrongly informed.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : He can say anything . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. There cannot be two speeches at the same time. If you want to intervene, you can do so only if the Home Minister yields.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : He says that urchins have started this.

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MR. CHAIRMAN : Unless he yields you cannot interrupt. If he yields it is all right, I shall not question that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why does he not yield?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : The fact that there was trouble we cannot brush aside. The facts are staring or glaring at us but for the meaning or implications, you should not go on a wrong track for that. It is not that all the people were just wanting to create trouble. There may have been apprehensions but that resistance has been created over the years and people had talked : 'There will be no Hindi at all, there can be only English and the Constitution will be burnt, that Chapter XVII will be burnt' and all that kind of thing had been going on for years and years and it must affect the minds of some people. And maybe I may admit there my mistake of not having done my part properly, that we did not fight it there in the ground sufficiently so that the people may be disabused of that, that they must understand their own interests, that these mistaken notions and misleading slogans will not help them. We could have done that. It was a thing—this opposition which has been built up—possibly not fully dealt with by us, maybe so but it is not that anything has happened now, but it was there. I may again say this that it is a trouble that has been created in which I may say—the hon. Member will not like it, though I cannot place precisely—whether it was the Left or Right Communist . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No fears. I protest. This kind of slander will not do. Our language policy is well known. Why should you slander?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : I have not completed my sentence.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why should you slander the Party ? You have done it in the blessed statement. It is not worth the paper on which it is written. I am not going to put up with it even if you happen to be the Home Minister of the country. I am not going to tolerate this Macarthysm . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to put up with the regulations of the House.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : He should not be allowed to speak in the House. How can we carry on with these interruptions ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order, Please sit down.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN (Uttar Pradesh) : May I point out to you that you are to regulate the proceedings and not Mr. Gupta as he is trying to do ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you for reminding me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a very serious statement. We are accused of creating language riots and you want national unity ?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : He has not heard me . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will proceed and none will please intervene unless he yields ground. If anyone wants to interpose, he can do so when he yields.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You know our language policy.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Does he object to the classification of the Com-

munists in the country into Right and Left ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We object to everything you say. The Home Ministry is an institution of lies, fabrication and falsehood. (Interruptions) The Home Ministry is an institute of lies, fabrication and falsehood.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : That is simple . . .

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Sir, can he use the words "fabrication and falsehood" with regard to the statement of the Home Minister ? Therefore I would beg of you, Sir, to ask him to withdraw those words, and if he does not, to expunge those words.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I said "Home Ministry".

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : The words are unparliamentary and they must be expunged, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I said "Home Ministry", not "Home Minister".

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Now he is going back on what he said a minute back. Sir, you should not give him too much liberty to speak as he likes, to say unparliamentary things.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Not at all. You may have the majority and you may . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you are as frequent as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta in speaking while the Home Minister is on his legs. Now let the Home Minister continue.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA : Now Mr. Gupta may get angry or angrier as I

proceed, but I cannot help. Sir, I cannot help mentioning the fact there is a Right and there is a Left; it is in their own mouths; they are fighting, more than even the other parties, within themselves. Where is the question of Right and Left? Why does he object?

But my point was this, Sir, that the Chief Minister of Madras has said openly—other responsible people have said also—that in this rioting, in these disturbances, in these and other sorrowful occurrences, the Left Communists along with the D.M.K., along with some moneyed people, had a hand. (Interruptions) I have been told, on the authority of an eminent person, who saw things, who was very closely associated with the University and knowing the students, that this is what happened, that they were instigated and they wanted petrol. They were going on. "I want money for petrol. I want money for this." Why? And this was going on. And it is not the students who do that. It is always then that some other persons take charge of the situation. And they took charge of the situation, and it is there, Sir, we have to do much more. In this country, I believe that if there is any good thing I can help in doing is to see that the *goondas*, the hooligans and the anti-social elements do not take charge of the students and do not create trouble for them and for the country.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Who are the anti-social elements?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I did not mention him or anybody, Sir,

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hooligans and others are in the Congress Party.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Thank you, Sir. I do not think I should speak any further. I have done.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I want to make . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2-30 in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, **THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 1965-66 —General Discussion—continued).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arjun Arora, I think you had nearly finished your points.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): No, Madam, I had only begun.

Madam, I was referred to the congestion at the Delhi station which leads to great delay. Trains which arrive in time at Ghaziabad on the one hand and at Nizamuddin on the other, having completed hundreds of miles of their journey in time, are merely delayed because there is confusion at the Delhi station and the people in charge of the controls do not know on what platform to take them. That is something which should be remedied quickly. It is not as if only trains coming to Delhi are delayed. But the departure of trains from the Delhi junction is also generally delayed. Hardly any train leaves the Delhi Junction in time. Particularly that is the situation as far as the train called 12 Down is concerned, that is to say, the Delhi-Howrah Express. During the last one or two years it has hardly ever left Delhi Station in time, at least not on all Fridays when I travel on that train.

Madam, there is something extremely faulty in the means of communication employed by the Railways. There was an accident on the 30th January near Shikohabad in Uttar Pradesh. Till the next morning nobody at Kanpur knew, and