

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 9th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION OF HINDI AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

*158. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Members of Parliament from Hyderabad State against the Centre taking over the Osmania University for introducing Hindi as a medium of instruction there ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large section of public have expressed their opinion against this move ; if so, what Government propose to do in the matter ; and

(c) the reasons why Government propose to introduce Hindi in the Osmania University first ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) No.

(b) Some sections of the public of Hyderabad have expressed themselves against this move. The question was debated in the State Legislative Assembly during the last session and a resolution was passed requesting the Government of India to set up a Committee of Educational Experts to examine the various aspects of the reconstitution of the Osmania University into a Central Institution. The Government of India have accordingly set up a Committee. A copy of the resolution issued in this connection is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 39.]

50 C. S. D.

(c) The reason for the decision to reconstitute Osmania University into a Central University with Hindi as the principal medium of instruction is that in view of its central location in the South, its experience and tradition, the Osmania University would appear to be fitted for conversion into a Central University on the lines of the Banaras, Aligarh and Delhi Universities. The Osmania University will thus be enabled to play a useful part in developing the national language in the South and to promote closer cultural relations between the North and the South.

DR. R. B. GOUR : Did I hear the hon. Minister as saying "No" to part (a) ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Yes, Sir ; we have not received any representations from Members of Parliament.

DR. R. B. GOUR : May I remind the hon. Minister that we did submit a representation—here is a copy with me—and that we also had a talk with the Prime Minister on the basis of that memorandum ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Apparently the hon. Minister means recent representations.

DR. R. B. GOUR : There was a representation during the last session.

SHRI B. N. DATAR : We have made inquiries even in the Prime Minister's Secretariat and have found that no representation has been received there. Does the hon. Member refer to any oral representation ?

DR. R. B. GOUR : No, Sir. There was a written memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, copy to the Education Minister, copy to the States Minister ; and then we also had talks with all the three Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And copy to Dr. R. B. Gour ?

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : Possibly it may be a misrepresentation.

DR. R. B. GOUR : Has the Government received any representation from the various public bodies in Hyderabad ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Yes, we have received a number of representations from various sections in the Hyderabad State.

DR. R. B. GOUR : What are the opinions expressed there, and what steps has the Government taken to examine those opinions ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Government have examined those opinions, but in view of the specific expression of opinion by the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly, we are acting on the advice tendered to us by the Hyderabad Assembly itself.

DR. R. B. GOUR : May I know whether the Government knows that in Hyderabad there has been an agitation going on to replace Urdu by the languages of the people of Hyderabad, namely, Telugu, Marathi and Kannada, even in the sphere of higher education ; and what has the Government done to fulfil this desire of the people of Hyderabad ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : There is some agitation on the lines suggested by the hon. Member, but it would be found from the terms of reference of the Committee which has been recently appointed that this question also has been referred to that Committee, and that Committee will take all the opinions prevailing in Hyderabad into consideration.

DR. R. B. GOUR : What does the hon. Minister mean by "some agitation" in this regard ? Does he know that this agitation on the question of medium of instruction in the mother tongue is older than even the Congress movement in Hyderabad ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : "Some agitation" means agitation on the part of

those organisations which are opposed to Government.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is the Government aware that the tradition in Hyderabad which the hon. Minister referred to is the tradition of forcibly thrusting a foreign language, an alien language, on the people there ?

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Is it a Russian language ?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Urdu is a foreign language for the people of Hyderabad. Is the Government aware that the tradition in Hyderabad is to force upon the people of Hyderabad a language which is not their mother tongue ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Sir, there is no question of forcing any foreign language on Hyderabad. Urdu, it would be found, is also one of the regional languages in India ; and when that University is reconstituted into a new University, Hindi would be the medium of instruction and not Urdu, and arrangement will be made so that all the three regional languages will be well provided for.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Is it not a fact that Hindi is the *lingua franca* of India ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Yes, it is. It is the national language of India under the Constitution.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Is it not a fact that Urdu was foisted on the people of Hyderabad some 200 years ago as opposed to the languages of the region ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Next question.

DR. R. B. GOUR : We are not satisfied with the answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not matter. A Committee has been appointed to go into the whole question.

DR. R. B. GOUR : We have submitted a representation, but the Government says they have not received it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member can send it to the Committee. Next question.

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

*159. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : (a) Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a foreign professor is coming to India to guide and direct oceanographic research in an Indian university ?

(b) If so, what is his name, and what is the agency through which he has been selected ?

(c) What share of the expenditure relating to his emoluments the Government of India will bear ?

(d) How long will he stay in India, and what are the detailed schemes of his work here ?

(e) Which is the university where he will work, and when was Oceanography introduced as a subject in that university ?

(f) Is it a fact that oceanographic study of Indian waters will be of vital importance to the naval defence of the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prof. Eugene C. La Fond, Head of Oceanography Branch, U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory has come to India through the United States Educational Foundation in India.

(c) Nil.

(d) The Professor has come to India for nine months. The scheme of his work is—

(i) to survey the geological and biological features of the western part of the Bay of Bengal ;

(ii) to do advanced teaching work in Oceanography ; and

(iii) to train members of the staff of the university in the methods of advanced teaching.

(e) Andhra university. The subject of Oceanography was introduced in the university in 1948 as a special subject in university Department of Atmospheric and Meteorology.

(f) Such study will lead to an increase of knowledge and the results of the survey would be very useful to the Indian Navy. The Government do not consider that this matter is such that from the point of view of defence all scientific research in connection with it should be barred.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why is it that an officer of the American Navy is considered the fittest person to do this work in the Andhra University ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Government have selected him in their right judgment.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why is it that the Government in their great wisdom have invited a foreign officer to do oceanographic research which will affect our security ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Sir, so far as this important section of geophysics is concerned, we do not have any experienced Indian scientist, and we have obviously to fall back on somebody who is available outside for the purpose of giving training to our students. So far as the defence and security aspects are concerned, Government are quite alive to them, and it should not be difficult for the hon. Member to presume that we will take such steps as will be necessary for us to safeguard our own interests.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it the Government's policy, as is evident from a number of questions, to bring army officers from foreign countries in the garb of educational experts to India ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an insinuation.