

श्री नारायण दास गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली): सर, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

**Provision of written replies to questions raised or tabled in  
Parliament in regional languages**

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHARAO (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for this opportunity to raise this important issue in the Zero Hour. Recently, there are media reports that the hon. Supreme Court has decided to make available the certified copies of all the judgements of the hon. Supreme Court in select Indian regional languages. This was also an exhortation of the hon. President of India to the hon. Supreme Court some time ago. The work of both the Houses of Parliament is widely covered in the country. But, certainly, our work would be greatly appreciated if the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament are extensively circulated in regional languages also. At present, answers to the questions raised during the Question Hour are supplied in English and Hindi. A large number of regional language media publications do not have the resources to translate all these and carry in the newspapers the following day. There is also wide use of regional languages in the social media, be it the Facebook or Twitter. Hon. Vice-President and Chairman of this House, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, has been repeatedly highlighting the importance of promoting regional languages in all our governance aspects. So, I would like to make an appeal to you to make a beginning and supply the replies of all the questions in one regional language of the choice of the Member himself or herself so that this information can be immediately circulated in the regional language media. This can be done in all the 22 languages, maybe with a little time gap. PIB has units all over the country. In regional languages together, they account for the top ten of the twenty publications by readership. So, all our work would be greatly appreciated by the country if we supply all our replies in regional languages. To begin with, my suggestion is that we could use the services of the people retained by the Rajya Sabha itself for translation. There are many of these regional language newspapers having their bureaus in Delhi which can possibly associate with the Parliament office and help in the translation of these languages. So, my earnest appeal is to make available, to begin with, the replies to all the questions in regional languages. I appeal to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting also to make available through PIB all the notes of the Cabinet decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Narasimha Raoji, the allotted time is over.

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion worth consideration. But I don't want to come to any conclusion without application of mind. First, we need to go through the system and then find out practical difficulties. Only then will we be able to apply this suggestion of giving replies in mother tongue. Before that, we need to have people workable for doing it. That would be kept in mind. In this connection, I also made an observation the other day. In my enthusiasm, I said that Zero Hour submissions also should get response. Then I went through the Rules and also practical difficulties. As of now, it is not possible. So, I am holding back that one. But, at the same time, as far as the Special Mention is concerned, the Rule position is clear and I reiterate that the Ministers have to send replies at the earliest. With regard to the observation made by the hon. Member, the hon. Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar, is here. He will take note of it so as to promote regional languages. But I don't want to call them 'regional languages'. I would request some important people to come out with some other alternative name for such languages. The moment you call 'regional language', my heart also grieves; I feel bad. You are confining it to one region. People should say 'All India languages'. That should be right. This is about Zero Hour; the Minister also can take note of it.

### **Looming threat of drought in the country**

श्री रेवती रमन सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे देश में भयंकर सूखे की स्थिति बनी हुई है। जून में 33 फीसदी कम पानी बरसा। मान्यवर, आज 18 राज्यों में