

recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce contained in its 177th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 171st Report of the Committee, on "Issues affecting the Indian Tea Industry especially in Darjeeling region".

Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 55th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE): Sir, I lay the Statement regarding Status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 55th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, in the list of notices for Matters Raised with Permission during the Zero Hour, selected through ballot for today, notices of Shri Naresh Bansal and Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney are on similar issue of drug addiction. Similarly, the notices of Shri Sant Balbir Singh and Dr. V. Sivadasan are on the issue of adverse effects of climate change. These notices are similar in nature and would be clubbed together and one Member may associate with the other.

Now, Shri Saket Gokhale.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Need to strike a fair balance between the usage of Hindi and English language in Government Business

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE (West Bengal): Sir, there is a recent event from Meghalaya, which I wish to highlight in this august House. At the start of the current Budget Session of the Meghalaya Assembly, it was announced that the Hon. Governor

would deliver his Address to the House in Hindi. This was supported by the BJP in Meghalaya and the Meghalaya Leader of the BJP even incorrectly claimed saying, 'Hindi is our national language; so, what is the problem?' Let me highlight here that Hindi is not our national language. The official language of the State of Meghalaya is English. Meghalaya also has a proud linguistic culture that includes the native languages of Garo and Khasi. Despite repeated demands by the people of Meghalaya as well as my Party, Trinamool Congress, the Union Government has not yet included Garo and Khasi in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Now, in this context, the Hon. Governor of Meghalaya choosing to address the Assembly in Hindi, instead of the State's official language English, is nothing but a brazen Hindi imposition and an attempt to undermine the linguistic pride of Meghalaya.

Sir, we have recently seen the Government passed three new criminal laws in Parliament after suspending 146 MPs. For some strange reason, these laws have been given very complicated Hindi names like Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, etc. Let me remind the House here that outside of North India, Hindi is not the native language of crores of Indians. This is precisely why our Constitution chose to retain English as an official language along with Hindi. The imposition of Hindi by the Union Government has even led to an Hon. Judge of the Madras High Court saying, 'I do not know how to pronounce the names of these new criminal laws. I am going to keep calling them I.P.C. and Cr.P.C.' Sir, Bangla, which is spoken in my State of West Bengal is India's second most spoken language after Hindi. Similarly, languages from the South and the West like Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Telugu and Tulu have their own rich and cultural heritage and our people take pride in our languages. There is a reason that English has been retained as an official language in our Constitution along with Hindi. However, the attempts by the current Government to forcibly impose Hindi, which is barely spoken by 46 per cent of the population, on the rest of India is a matter of *

Sir, there is absolutely no respect for local languages. Every new name that this Government gives is given in Hindi for some reason. Are languages of the West, the South and the East not important in this country and our regional languages have no meaning? Sir, I would, therefore, like to appeal that English as an official language must be used for Government Business that extends to all of India including non-Hindi speaking States. When our Constitution mandates both Hindi and English as official languages, the imposition of Hindi over English and vernacular languages by

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the Government is an affront to our federal structure and a shocking disregard of the States that do not speak Hindi. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you have taken oath under the Constitution. I will strongly suggest you to go through the constitutional provisions.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: I have, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go through Article 351. I am reading for the benefit of the House. 'Directive' is a constitutional prescription given by our founding fathers — 'Directive for development of the Hindi language.'

"It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages..." It is there. You ignored it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, for a moment... ...*(Interruptions)*... I have not opened it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Can you develop the habit of being slightly decorous? ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, secondly, ..*(Interruptions)*.. Take your seat, Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*... Elamaramji, you are a senior Member. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, it has been time and again stated... ...*(Interruptions)*... Bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been time and again stressed that we have a culture of very rich languages. We are proud of our languages; our languages have even global impact; they have a great culture. All I am saying is, we must have a consensual approach. I am merely indicating what the founding fathers of the Constitution have mandated for us since we have taken the oath. We must always be open to make constructive suggestions. If I go to another Article, you are fully aware, that Article is all the more significant, namely, Article 344. "It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union; restrictions on the use of the English language..." ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Saket Gokhale. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Keshava Rao, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Hon. Members, please sit down. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat first. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why don't you take your seat? ...*(Interruptions)*... Elamaram Kareemji, don't force my hands. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. You are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are all senior Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down for a moment.

...(Interruptions)... All I am telling you and hear me carefully: Has your Chairman engaged in any transgression except inviting attention to constitutional provisions? Number one. I assert with a full sense of responsibility, India is a land where languages make us proud. ...(Interruptions)... Our languages have depth. Our languages have literature. Our languages have sweetness. All I am saying is that the Hon. Member went on a tangent. These are issues to be in a spirit of cooperation. And, every time, Mr. Gokhale, you make a point and you think it is your right to immediately jump on your seat. I will not countenance it. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ..(Interruptions).. Have I allowed you? No. I don't appreciate it. ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Members, I don't appreciate it. Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... No, it will not. ...(Interruptions)... Will you take your seat? ...(Interruptions)... Will you take your seat? ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... All sections of the House, please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Elamaram Kareem, don't do it ...(Interruptions)... Tiruchi Sivaji, what will younger Members learn from you? ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Saket Gokhale, I am about to name you. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. You cannot rise like this. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... I am sorry. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, I am sorry. ...(Interruptions)... Please, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Dr. John Brittas, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please, please. Hon. Members, what are we generating? If I tell a Member to maintain decorum, is it wrong? Can I be more patient? I make it a point to make the platform available to every Member. We will have different points of view. We will deliberate, discuss. ...(Interruptions)... Please, Mr. Tiruchi Siva. You know that there is a parliamentary committee. There is a mechanism which I head also. I am fully aware of it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, please allow... ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me make it very clear to the Hon. Members, I have interacted with senior Members and leaders of parties. They have invariably told me that we must have decorum and discipline in the House and we must demonstrate it. We should not get into a mode where we indicate indecorous behavior. With folded hands, I plead with you. I take a plea with you.

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, we are also saying it with folded hands. You are not allowing us to talk. You ask us to sit down...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Keshava Rao, you are very senior. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Keshava Rao, have I ever ignored when any Member of the House has sought permission by raising of hand? Have I ever declined even when there is a slight indication? My problem arises when a Member rises and then takes the floor without permission of the Chair. If you all think it is wise, sensible and decorous that this is the only pattern I should follow, I would follow! Now, Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah.

The following Hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the Hon. Member, Shri Saket Gokhale: Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri N. Chandrasegharan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal) and Dr. M. Thambidurai (Tamil Nadu).

**Demand to provide scholarships, grants, coaching facilities, etc. to the students of
Backward Communities at Central level**

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Respected Chairman, Sir, the Central Government has provided reservations to OBCs, SCs and STs, but OBC students were not given any financial assistance, particularly post-Matric scholarship and PG reimbursement. PG reimbursement and post-Matric scholarships are a part and parcel of the implementation of reservation. Without financial assistance, how can students from the OBC and Most Backward Classes carry out further studies? There are many students who come from the stone-cutter community, dhobi community, hair-cutter community and fishermen community. They all fall under the OBC category in many States, but they are unable to pursue higher education. The Government provides for 27 per cent reservation in IITs and IIMs. In the IITs and IIMs, the fee structure is Rs. 1,30,000 to Rs. 1,80,000. Along with this, an additional one lakh rupees is to be paid as maintenance charges. Students from the poor and backward classes cannot spend this huge amount and hence discontinue their studies. Some States are providing scholarships in fee within their States. In Central institutes, they are not sanctioning the same. Also, the Government is not providing financial help at the school level. Particularly, in Andhra Pradesh, the State Government is sanctioning Rs.15,000 to every OBC boy from first class to tenth class. But the Central Government is not giving financial assistance. Every year, they are reducing the Budget. Our Budget is Rs.47 lakh crore, but the scholarship amount is