

practice and provide such foreign travellers a paper-free and hassle-free travel experience into our airports. It will help us treat our guests under the *mantra* of 'अतिथि देवो भवः'! Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji: Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Need to make knowledge of local language as a primary criterion for recruitment of Teachers and Doctors in Puducherry

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Sir, the New Education Policy brings out a new era in Indian education system. Even our harshest critics are welcoming, at least, two important features of the policy. One is the primary education through mother tongue and the other is the extension of mother tongue as medium of instruction in the professional courses. But the current scenario prevailing in several States is not conducive to achieve the target. Many State Governments like Puducherry have long back introduced the CBSE pattern of education from the primary level in English medium. Now, they are unable to switch over to Tamil medium as there are no textbooks of CBSE standard in regional languages. This defeats the very purpose of New Education Policy. Therefore, the Central Government should step in, advice and help the State administrations suitably so that the medium of instruction at the primary level will be only in the regional language. Several Governments have already initiated steps to write textbooks in their regional languages for medicine and engineering. Perhaps, in a year or two, they will be fully prepared for the changeover. Puducherry has Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam speaking regions. It can easily adopt the textbooks prepared by the neighbouring States. But attention has to be paid on the recruitment of teachers. Being a Union Territory, the recruitment of Principals of Higher Secondary Schools and college lecturers, is being done by the UPSC. Candidates from other States are getting recruited, but they are not well-versed in teaching in the regional language. As the Principals of the Higher Secondary Schools have to deal with the school students, due to the regional language problem, the required conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning

process does not prevail. Therefore, there must be a provision in the recruitment rules for ensuring that only those, who are conversant with the regional languages, should be selected.

Another field that requires knowledge of local language is medicine. Unfortunately, in the Union Territory like Puducherry, the recruitment of doctors and nurses is done by the UPSC. Most of the recruits do not know the local language. When the doctors and the supporting staff are not conversant with the local language, it becomes very difficult for them to understand the suffering of the patients and offering treatment and healthcare advice. Therefore, Sir, through you, I would request the UGC, the AICTE and other higher education bodies to include a specific clause in the recruitment rules with immediate effect that the knowledge of local language is an important criterion for selection to different posts. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy: Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Demand to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Patnagarh, Titlagarh and other districts of Odisha

SHRI NIRANJANA BISHI (Odisha): Sir, I would like to bring to your attention the issue relating to establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Patnagarh, Titlagarh and other districts of Odisha. The Deputy Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Regional Office Bhubaneswar, had submitted a Revised Suitability Report of land and temporary accommodation building for the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya in Patnagarh. The District Administration had arranged 10 acres of land and temporary accommodation at Patnagarh for Kendriya Vidyalaya. However, despite meeting the prerequisites since January, 2022, there has been no further action by the Government of India towards establishment of new Kendriya Vidyalaya at Patnagarh and Titlagarh of Balangir District. In addition to that, there are pending proposals for new Kendriya Vidyalayas under the jurisdiction of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Bhubaneswar Region, namely, Titlagarh, Patnagarh, Talcher, Athmallik, Khorda, Kuchinda, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal and Jajpur.

It is crucial to expedite this process swiftly to ensure timely establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas. The underprivileged areas, particularly Patnagarh and Titlagarh and other districts, as mentioned above, urgently require quality education support through a Kendriya Vidyalaya. This will benefit the children of the Central Government