

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Revised Education Code for Kendriya Vidyalayas.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the notice of the House a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*) There is a Revised Education Code for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan comprising compulsory recitation of common prayers in Sanskrit by students in all KVs. It has been raised on various platforms including the Supreme Court of India as to whether compulsory recitation of common prayers in KV is constitutionally permissible or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

This is something which should have been avoided at the Supreme Court level itself in the beginning. Some parents, children and organisations from certain communities do not agree with this common prayer. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a common fact that the common prayers that are being sung in Kendriya Vidyalayas are from Upanishads, which are widely acclaimed by one and all in this world. ...(*Interruptions*) Our original Constitution has the motifs of Ramayana, Mahabharata and Upanishads which are on display both in the Parliament House Library and also in the Teen Murti Bhavan Library and it was never questioned as to why it had features of Hindu religion. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, we hear that the secular character is being tarnished because of the invocations in Sanskrit.

The judge of the Supreme Court has also referred to the Sanskrit Sloka from Upanishads 'Yato Dharma Tato Jaya' which is written in the Supreme Court. ... (*Interruptions*) Even in this House, *Dharma Chakra Pravartanaya* is written in the panel. Does it mean that something which is being recited in Sanskrit is not secular? ... (*Interruptions*)

This is something unbelievable in our country. The Upanishads give us असतो मा सद्गमय, तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय। This is the recitation which is being recited in Kendriya Vidyalayas. Why

should someone go to the Supreme Court challenging it that it impinges on the secular character? ...(*Interruptions*) We should say in one voice that this is something which is universal truth and which should be acclaimed throughout the country and also in every educational institution. This is a secular aspect. ...(*Interruptions*) I would urge upon the Government also to put forth a viewpoint before the Supreme Court and I would like a response from the Government in this regard.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kulmani Samal, Prof. Richard Hay, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri Devji M. Patel, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia, Shri Gopal Shetty, Shri Anil Shirole, Shri Ajay Misra Teni, Shri Pralhad Joshi, Shri Rajendra Agrawal and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.