

12.31 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

[Translations]

**Steps taken by Government to encourage study of Sanskrit**

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Steps taken by Government to encourage study of Sanskrit"

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH): The National Policy on Education, 1968, advocated that facilities for teaching of Sanskrit at various levels should be increased and new methods of teaching Sanskrit should be encouraged in view of the special importance of Sanskrit to the growth and development of Indian languages and its unique contribution to the cultural unity of the country. The National Policy on Education, 1986, has endorsed the provisions in the 1968 Policy and has stated that efforts should be made to delve into India's ancient fund of knowledge and to relate it to contemporary reality. This effort will imply the development of facilities for the intensive study of Sanskrit. The policy also states that to sustain and carry forward the cultural tradition, the role of old masters, who train pupils through traditional modes will be supported and recognized.

12.32 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The propagation of Sanskrit as an an-

cient language with living tradition which has guided the development of many modern Indian languages and as the repository of a great deal of Indian tradition has been sought to be strengthened all along. The government of India had appointed a Sanskrit Commission in 1956 and it gave its report in 1957. The Commission made a series of recommendations and suggested that Government of India should set up a Central Sanskrit Board. The recommendation of the Sanskrit Commission was accepted and the Central Sanskrit Board was established in 1959. (Recently the Board has been reconstituted with the Vice-President of India as the Chairman). Based on the advice of this Board, the government of India has initiated a series of measures for strengthening traditional learning of Sanskrit as also teaching of Sanskrit in contemporary educational institutions. Some of the prominent programmes being implemented in this regard are as below:

- i) Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas in Tirupati, Delhi, Puri, Allahabad, Jammu, Jaipur, Lucknow and Guruvayoor have been set up under the umbrella of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Out of these the Vidyapeethas at Tirupati and Delhi have become the deemed universities. These institutions impart education from Prathma to Acharya and conduct a vigorous programme of research in Sanskrit.
- ii) To develop and propagate Vedic learning and to establish linkage between Vedic learning and Persian science based development, Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishtan has been set up.
- iii) Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations working for propagation of Sanskrit.

- iv) 15 Ved Units are supported financially by the Government of India under which two students learn Vedas in a particular shakha under a Veda pathi Guru.
- v) The Government extends financial assistance for current and out of print books in Sanskrit and for publication of journals and periodicals in Sanskrit.
- vi) All-India Vedic Convention and All-India Sanskrit Education Contest in the country are conducted every year.
- (vii) Scholarships are offered to students learning in traditional and other educational institutions.
- (viii) The Government of India has appointed 85 Sanskrit scholars on consolidated honorarium basis for imparting intensive training about Shastras to young teachers and senior students under Shashtra Chudamani Scheme.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is but natural that one should have a sense of satisfaction by going through the detailed information furnished by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education about measures taken by the Government to promote Sanskrit language. But I regret to say that a totally different feeling is being developed throughout the country. Its main reason is that though several effective measures were taken to promote Sanskrit language, one thing has caused serious set back to the efforts of study and teaching of Sanskrit. It is unfortunate that while we are celebrating the birth centenary of the founder and first Chairman of Sahitya Akademy Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru

and Dr. Radhakrishnan this year under whose auspices the scheme for the promotion of Indian languages was made and Sanskrit was recognized as the most ancient as well as the modern language and since then, except a few years in between, Sahitya Akademy awards are given to a number of literatures and scholars in the annual function whose literary works were published and termed as fire pieces of literature. But in the same year, Central Board of Secondary Education issued a circular to stop teaching Sanskrit as a separate subject at secondary level in the schools of Northern region. It would be considered a black day in the history and development of Indian languages when a resolution was passed in the meeting of Central Board of Secondary Education on 10.6.88 and a circular was issued on September 16, 1988 to the effect that Sanskrit language has now been excluded from the three language formula in respect of the schools working under the Central Board. It is an irony that an annexure was attached with the circular issued by the Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education on September 16, 1988. It had two parts first part explained the "number and languages" and the second part explained "which languages." it states that -

[*English*]

"the three languages shall be selected out of English and the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution subject to the following:

- (a) Hindi or English must be two of the languages studied;
- (b) Sanskrit will be studied as part of Hindi as a first language, that is 'A' course."

[*Translation*]

This provision has given a serious blow to Sanskrit and its status in general education system. In his statement the hon. Minister of state has referred to the recommendations of Sanskrit Commission. I have gone through the report prepared by the Commis-

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

sion under the Chairmanship of a renowned linguist Dr. Suneet Kumar Chatterjee. If we read it attentively then we shall find that from 1957, when Calcutta university was established, teaching of Sanskrit began in all the States. The jurisdiction of Calcutta university was extended to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, North-Western region and Sindh. Sanskrit was taught as a separate subject earlier also but a day came when its study was not considered to be necessary. Three language formula has been mentioned in this Commission's Report and the question of according a particular status to this language has been discussed extensively. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards page 102 and 103 of the report which relate the various alternatives which can be adopted for study of teaching and promoting Sanskrit. One of them recommends that Sanskrit be made a compulsory subject. Secondly, if it is not possible, four language formula with the inclusion of Sanskrit should be adopted in place of three language formula, however, option should be given to the student in this regard. Similarly, there are some more alternatives. Composite course has also been mentioned in it besides a number of other things. But I would not go into all of them. My submission is that the hon. Minister of State had himself conceded in a reply to one of my questions last month that Sanskrit is not only an ancient language but also a modern language. Article 351 of the Constitution gives an important position to Sanskrit and it states that it would play a significant role in the growth of Hindi and other regional languages are also considered to have their origin in Sanskrit language. All these things have been mentioned in the Report of this Commission. In spite of all this, it is unfortunate that this language has been de-linked from general education. If Sanskrit is not taught as a separate subject in schools all the measures taken by the government to promote the language would be of no use. Because in that case, it would become a special subject and it would be beyond the

reach of a common student to study it. In view of this fact some of the well wishers of Sanskrit approached the Supreme Court against the circular issued by Secondary Board of Education. A new provision which the Government intended to introduce from the 1st April had to be suspended because the Supreme Court issued stay order to the effect that the new system may not be implemented for the present. We are grateful to Supreme Court which prevented an unpleasant situation and provided considerable time to review the situation. If the Government of India intend to fulfil their responsibility towards the promotion of Sanskrit, if they consider this language to be a source of national integration and give due respect to it due to its contribution in developing other regional languages, if they consider importance of ancient culture for the future of the country then they should withdraw the aforesaid circular. Sanskrit is repository of our ancient culture and if we do not open the doors of Sanskrit to the students in schools, its light would not reach them. We will have to give that light to all and the only way for this is that no restriction should be imposed on study and teaching of Sanskrit language and it should be given its rightful place in three language formula by amending the same. The Government may execute four language formula of make any other provision but it would not be in the interest of India to reduce the importance of Sanskrit. I would like to remind you that Sanskrit is not confined within the boundaries of India it is popular even in other countries and one of its example is that under the auspices of Bodhiruchi, who has been a great saint of China, a Sanskrit School with 700 Boudh monks used to run there. The entire Indian literature used to be translated from Sanskrit to Chinese and religious texts of china used to be translated in sanskrit in this school and there are many other universities in other countries which provide the facility of studying and teaching Sanskrit. When Sanskrit is such an enriched language and it plays an important role in cultural unity of the country it would not be appropriate to exclude Sanskrit from the curricula only because it does not fit in the three language formula. With

heavy heart, I would like to ask a few question regarding three language formula.

The three language formula had been approved when Sanskrit commission was still in the process of preparing report and this formula has been referred to in its report. The matter was discussed in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States in 1961. You are aware of the fact that Sanskrit was given an important place in the National Education Policy. But Sanskrit passed through various stages in the years 1956, 1961 and 1968 and the procedure of studying and teaching Sanskrit based on the same formula continued, whether the same formula which was applied for 38 years was not appropriate. If it worked well for such a long duration why did the Government want to change it, what were the underlying factors for making amendment in it that the Government issued a circular to the schools all over the country on Sept. 16, 1988. It created wide spread dissatisfaction and illusions among the Sanskrit scholars. The future of the students became dark and the Sanskrit teachers were utterly disappointed. A few days back, a news was broadcast at AIR and also reported in the Press. I read in "The Hindu" that Central Education Board had issued the orders to the effect that teaching of Sanskrit would continue in the same manner as before. If it is so, whether the hon. Minister would reply the following questions.

Whether the Government have made it clear to all the schools that the Supreme Court has issued stay order and the Government would follow the same formula until Supreme Court gives its judgement on the issue. By filing an affidavit through its lawyers before the Supreme Court, has the Government accepted that Sanskrit would continue to be studied and taught until the Supreme Court gives a decision and the Government will abide by that decision? It is understandable if the Government is awaiting the Supreme court decision. But if Government lawyers are trying to get the stay order vacated filing an affidavit before the Supreme court saying that the Government's explanation of the 3 Language for-

mula is correct and Sanskrit be taught through new methods, then what is meant by Government's orders that study and teaching of Sanskrit would continue?

Sanskrit is a living symbol of India's glorious past. It would be very difficult to do away with it. The Government has stated that several steps are being taken to encourage the study of Sanskrit. It has also been stated that certain amount has also been allocated for this purpose. A natural corollary to that is to ensure that there is no restriction on the study and teaching of Sanskrit in schools. If any such restriction has been imposed it should be withdrawn forthwith before there is a mass movement to protest against this new policy. Through the meetings of Chief Ministers Education Ministers concerned officials in 1951, 1957, 1961 and 1968 and till 16 September, 1988 the definition of the 3-Language formula remained the same and Sanskrit was being taught accordingly and the entire system was working well. But one day a circular was issued that changed the whole picture. After the circular was issued and a stay order was sought against it, it was decided that the decision of the Supreme Court would not be discussed what decision. The judges of the Supreme Court would take is best known to them. For them the interests of the country and that of Sanskrit both are supreme. The Government should give an assurance that as long as the Supreme Court does not give a decision, no steps would be taken towards implementing the new definition of the 3-Language formula. If a new system has to be adopted it should one in which Sanskrit gets the importance it deserves. Sanskrit should be popularised as a subject of study in schools so that more students all over the country are attracted towards it. This will revive the Sanskrit language as a force that will strengthen the unity and integrity of the country. The entire nation wants the Government to respond in a clear-cut manner to this issue.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR  
(Durg): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages and a

[Sh. Chandulal Chandrakar]

symbol of Indian culture. Sanskrit has produced literature of the highest order. I do not want to comment on the Government's decision imposing restriction on the study of Sanskrit vide their circular on 16th September, 1988. But I am sorry to note that the Government had taken this undesirable step.

As national leaders have been saying before and after independence, Sanskrit is a symbol of national unity. This language has prompted an interaction between North Indian and South Indian Scholars for periodical exchange of views. The 'Namboodiripad Brahmins' of Kerala are functioning as priests in a number of temples in North India. Our elders used to make periodic visits to various regions of the country to meet the local people. It was the language which established a common bond between the people. The Sanskrit language is the foundation on which other national languages develop and flourish. We turn to Sanskrit when we have to select new words for a language. Discontinuation of the study of Sanskrit will certainly be a blow to national integration. Our Government particularly the Education Ministry should look into this matter. There is no doubt that a great injustice has been done to the mother of all Indian languages. The Supreme Court has advised the Central Government not to impose restrictions on the study of Sanskrit at present. I request the Education Ministry to withdraw the restrictions imposed on the study of Sanskrit in schools all over the country and orders should be issued immediately to retain Sanskrit as a subject of study.... (*Interruptions*)... If I start speaking in Sanskrit you will have a greater problem as there are no interpretation facilities. you will leave the House which is something I do not want you to do. I would rather say something that will make you stay here and listen.

I used to attend the Constituent Assembly as a journalist to report on the proceedings. I recall that more than 90% of the members were in favour of continuance of Sanskrit. The entire nation is grateful to Shri

Rajagopalachari for linking Sanskrit to other national languages. Sanskrit is a language in which scholars living in different parts of the country can communicate with each other. Our ancient scriptures are read not because they are religious in nature but due to their being store houses of knowledge. I was surprised to learn that in a small country called Bolivia 'Mahabharata' has been prescribed as a subject of study in the M.A. Course. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi went there in 1968 to attend a seminar on Oriental languages. When the President of the Seminar spoke in Sanskrit our delegates found it difficult to reply in the same language I was able to extend some help as I had also gone there in the capacity of a journalist. On asking them as to how Bolivia had so many Sanskrit scholars, we were told that Sanskrit has been studied to understand the deeper meaning of 'Mahabharata' which is taught as a text-book. They further said that 'Mahabharata' besides being a religious scripture was a storehouse of knowledge. 'Mahabharata' is a source of political and literacy knowledge. We have much to gain from it. I request the Education Ministry not to accord Step-Motherly treatment to Sanskrit. Showing disrespect to Sanskrit is showing disrespect to the soul of the nation.

With these words I request that orders be issued immediately to continue with the study of Sanskrit until the Supreme Court makes a decision in this matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the calling Attention is over, we will adjourn for Lunch. Up to that time, we are extending the time. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to be brief in putting their questions. Already, Prof. Parashar has taken 10-15 minutes. So, I request the hon. Members to take five minutes each and make whatever points they want to make and also put the questions to the hon. Minister.

Shri Umakant Mishra.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that a conspiracy is being hatched to destabilise and break the country. Indianism is being eradicated from India. Culture of India and its cultural heritage are being obliterated from India. It appears that a conspiracy is being hatched. We are astonished to find that efforts are being made to do away with Sanskrit gradually which is a symbol, identity and the very life line of this country and whose lovers exist from Himalaya to Kanyakumari and from western to eastern coasts of the sea and which is a symbol of Indian unity and integrity. We are surprised that this conspiracy is succeeding despite learned Ministers such as hon. P. Shiv Shanker and Shri Shahiji are holding the charge of this Ministry. Importance of Sanskrit is being acknowledged throughout the world. When independence had not dawned in this country, persons like Sir William John, Maxmullar and Gothe had accepted and appreciated the importance of Sanskrit and even after independence due recognition was given to Sanskrit in our constitution at behest of our first prime Minister Late Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru who was instrumental in making the constitution. Sanskrit is not only an ancient language, it is also a modern language. Sanskrit does not belong to any cast, religion or a particular class of people. It is a language of the whole of India and of the entire world. It is a language of mankind and it has also been called a divine language. Such injustice is being done to a language which links to country, which establishes the unity and integrity of the country. The country will not tolerate it. Today not only its teacher and students but the people throughout the country are agitated over it. Efforts are being made to do away with the identity of Sanskrit from the country. Common man desires that Sanskrit should be taught because there is very rich literature in Sanskrit and it is our great heritage. Sanskrit is a great source of knowledge and spirituality and it links the humanity. Sanskrit depicts that kind of literature, philosophy and thoughts which can give us world peace and which can

establish universal human brotherhood. It is very unwise to weaken the languages which has established high idealism before humanity. Its study is the need of the hour. It would be a kind of betrayal with the country and its people. It is not necessary that every man should study and speak Sanskrit but the knowledge, thoughts hidden in Sanskrit language should be made known not only to the whole country but the people of whole world. Vedas are being studied throughout the world. Literature of Kalidas and Vedvyas is being studied throughout the world. There is no renowned university in the world where Sanskrit is not being taught and where studies of Vedas, Panini, Kalidas or Vedvyas are not being made. The entire world has high praise for the ancient scholars of India for their multifarious knowledge in various fields such as spiritualism, science, anthropology, Ayurveda, Astrology and Mathematics etc. The world has benefited from this knowledge. Today, we should also take benefit from it. There is a lot of resentment and dissatisfaction in the country over the failure in giving due recognition to it. We are not understanding the importance of Sanskrit today and we will have to repent for it. Sanskrit is an ancient as well as a modern language. It is a language of unity and integrity. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to pay special attention to it.

It is my suggestion that study of Sanskrit being made in secondary schools at present, should be continued under three language formula and similarly Sanskrit should be prescribed as a subject in Navodaya Vidyalyas. We have no objection, if you introduce Arabic or Persian but Sanskrit must be taught as a subject in Navodaya schools and status quo should be maintained with regard to teaching of Sanskrit in secondary schools. It is my suggestion that if Sanskrit cannot be covered under three language formula, it should be prescribed as fourth subject and at least a paper of 100 marks should be earmarked for Sanskrit along with that of Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Bangla etc. If you take such a step then only Sanskrit can be protected. I hope that Minis-

[Sh. Umakant Mishra]

try of Human Resources will take due note of the resentment of the people and take proper action in giving due place to Sanskrit language. Sanskrit is our heritage and steps taken to popularise it during the regime of by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Sampurnanandji and Dr. Rajendra Prasad are still going on and Shrimati Indira Gandhi has stated that it was our valuable treasure and we should make every efforts to preserve it. Will Ministry of Human Resources take proper step to propagate and to protect Sanskrit keeping all these points in view.

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I extend my gratitude to our hon. Minister of State for Education for his views expressed in respect of popularising Sanskrit but the question raised by us has not been replied therein. We brought a calling attention here with a view to knowing the reasons for degrading the importance of Sanskrit which is the mother of all the Indian languages and which is a language of modern knowledge and science, reference of which has been made by our colleagues. Initiating the debate, Shri Parashar has asked as to why in September, 1988 Sanskrit was removed from syllabus. Three language formula is under implementation from a long time and what difficulty was faced which led to removal of Sanskrit from the syllabus of three language formula. The truth is, as stated by Pt. Umakant Mishra, that there is a conspiracy, I also feel like that a conspiracy has been hatched to obliterate Bhartiyaism by removing Sanskrit so that we have to go to abroad in search of Bhartiyaism. The people of Indian will not know what Bhartiyaism is. Who does not know that without the knowledge of Sanskrit, without understanding Sanskrit, soul of India can not be identified, no can we keep our head high in the world. The entire world knows Balmiki and Vyas and epics composed by them are our historical heritage. Entire knowledge of our country is contained there in. Any Indian who does not know about Kalidas, Shri Harsh or Ashwaghosh or Bhavbhuti or Ban cannot keep his head high

in the world. It is not essential for us to know shelly, Keats or Shakespere. Due to this, no Indian can feel small but the day he does not know Kalidas, Vyas or Balmiki, he will feel degraded, What I mean to say is that the roots of three language formula lies somewhere else and a mistake has been committed. Mistake lies in keeping English as compulsory language. We want to maintain English at all cost. National language is needed to maintain the unity of the country and therefore Hindi is studied. We want to develop all the languages of the country, therefore every Indian language has its importance and every child should be imparted education in his mother tongue. Two language formula has been adopted by all the big countries of the world. There is the glaring example of U.S.S.R. before us. The Russians have to receive higher education in their national Russian language, after which they are free to learn English, French, Sanskrit or any of the languages they like. India is an exception to this where learning English is compulsory. It makes no difference if one does not know the Indian languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi or Tamil, but he is forced to know English.

To-day, our students are sitting over fast un to death before the Public Service Commission in protest against imposition of English. It is most unfortunate that they have been forced to launch an agitation for their demand to be taught through the medium of Indian languages. They are making hue and cry for it but our leaders do not listen to their cries. What an injustice is it, what is this attitude? Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Raj Gopalachari had said that the day the country would attain independence, its first identity would be that the entire work would be carried out in national and Indian languages. This goal is yet to be achieved.

I would like to say that at a time when English was reigning supreme as a language for modern knowledge and science and the State in which domination of English was the maximum, M.A. classes in Sanskrit was introduced for the first time in that State

in Calcutta University. It was the first university in the country which started M.A. classes in Sanskrit.

I call upon you that to-day Sanskrit should get its due place. Sanskrit is the inner self of India. Sanskrit is also one of the Indian languages which has been included in the constitution. As such Sanskrit should also be made compulsory alongwith other languages, whether it is Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada or Malayalam, Sanskrit should also be made compulsory. It should not be withdrawn from the syllabus. I say that people should be imparted education in their mother tongue and the national language should be made compulsory. Therefore the students may read English, Sanskrit, Urdu, French, whichever they like, but English should not made compulsory. English should be taught as an optional subject. It may be taught as a third language and left to the student whether he takes English or French or Russian or Sanskrit or French. The three language formula should mean that the student should have full knowledge of his mother tongue and as the second language every Indian must have the knowledge of the National language. The third language should be a language which will be helpful in our spiritual development.

Who gave you the right to make English compulsory in education at the cost of Sanskrit? you may take the case of any educational institution, any university in the world. You will find that special study of Sanskrit is being conducted in them. why is it so? From your statement it appears that you are preserving Sanskrit in the museum. Today, the world is recognising the importance of Sanskrit, but it is being ignored in this country. Today, the computer science has recognised Sanskrit as the best language of the world. Sanskrit is a language in the world with completeness of phonetics in which knowledge of maximum number of vocabulary could be attained. People all over the world have started recognising the status of Sanskrit in the century to come. The foreign scholars have said that Sanskrit as a language is complete in all respects. The people

of the world are studying Sanskrit and doing research in it, but it is being neglected in our country.

I would like to make an appeal to you not to confine the study of Sanskrit to research only. It should not be confined to a handful of persons by spending Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 crores on it. I am not in favour of it. Sanskrit is the source of all the living languages of the world. Study of Sanskrit should be compulsory for expression of thought, science and preservation of our tradition. It is all right that higher knowledge and scientific knowledge should be achieved in all the Indian languages. The stay order passed by the Supreme court is absolutely correct. Without going into the merits of this order of the Supreme Court, I would like to inform the Government that whatever might be the verdict of the Supreme Court, Sanskrit will remain immortal in this country. It is the verdict of the people of India.

SHRI L.P. SHAHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already replied the points put in the Original Calling Attention. Now I would like to clarify the position in regard to Supreme Court's verdict. The Supreme Court passed its verdict on 17th March and messages were despatched to all concerned in the C.B.S.E. that the status-quo would be maintained. As such there has been no change in the existing arrangement. Besides, the Government has no intentions to go against the Supreme Court verdict. On the one hand a discussion is held in the Parliament that three language formula should be there and on the other a case is being filed in the Supreme Court, the decision of which is awaited. We will have to wait for the Supreme Court Verdict and the Government is bound to accept the verdict of the Supreme Court whatever it might be because after that there could be no further appeal. However, as per the views of Shri Parashar, Shri Chaturvedi and Shri Chandrakar, it seems that steps taken by the Government have adversely affected the interest of sanskrit language. So we are prepared to reconsider the matters. The Government has no intentions to withdraw

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

teaching of Sanskrit from the country. As you are aware, two seminars on 'Vedic Mathematics' were organised last year and we are pursuing it further. Similarly, the Ved Vidya Pratistan has also taken some steps in this direction. This institution is just growing and its activities will increase further in future. Apart from the items I mentioned in my reply, every year some other steps are also taken which help in promoting Sanskrit. We have all along been taking steps in this regard. last year, the hon. President invited Sanskrits scholars and gave away prizes to them. In case any Sanskrit scholar, after his retirement is facing difficulties due to poverty, the Government also gives him annual assistance and it has all along been doing so. We are also considering to introduce composite courses in other languages as in the case of Hindi and Sanskrit. So far as the number of marks is concerned, it does not make any difference whether it is 20, 60, 50 or 75 or a total of 100 or 150. We can consider it and take a decision.

So far as the policy of the Government is concerned, the Government is not at all against Sanskrit. We are waiting for the Supreme court's Verdict and till then the status quo would be maintained. We will implement the Supreme Court Verdict in this regard. Even after that if it is felt that something is still lacking, Parliament is the Supreme body. It can issue directions to the Government that it must do this and that work.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch and will reassemble at 2.20 p.m.

13.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till  
Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the  
Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch  
at twenty three minutes past fourteen of  
the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

**(i) Need to replace the existing system of octroi by levying uniform surcharge.**

SHRI NIHAL SINGH JAIN (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, local autonomous bodies, municipalities and town area committees collect revenue in the form of octroi tax to be levied on the items entering their respective areas. It has been long felt that due to wide disparities in the octroi rates at different places, it creates an obstruction in business. Besides, its realisation involves maximum administrative expenditure and also suffers from a demerit because major part of this tax is swindled by the employees. Transportation cost is also increased and it is also time consuming.

Keeping in view all these facts, the Traffic Development Council has recommended abolition of this tax and also suggested to the State Governments to replace this tax by levying uniform surcharge. The Central Government has urged the State Governments to implement the recommendation but the State Governments, excepting Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have not so far initiated any action in this regard. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Ministers of Transport and Urban Development should make joint efforts and advise the State Governments to take immediate action in this regard.

**(ii) Need to open a Central Employment Exchange in Calcutta**

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): Sir,