

(vii) Need to adhere to the three language formula

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): The abandonment of the Revised Three Language Formula, 1961, by the educational authorities and its substitution by the CBSE by another formula of its own making strikes a fatal blow at the right of linguistic minorities. Universal adoption of Hindi and English as First and Second compulsory languages in Hindi speaking states relegates the mother tongue of the linguistic minorities to the status of third language when the mother tongue has to compete with other modern Indian languages. The schools are, moreover, not required to make necessary arrangements for the teaching of the mother tongue of the minority students. Similarly, in non-Hindi States, the formula has been reduced to Hindi, the regional language and English, leaving no scope at all for the teaching of the mother tongue of the linguistic minorities, other than those whose mother tongue is Hindi or English.

This formula is unscientific, discriminatory and unconstitutional because it ignores the right of a child to learn his mother tongue. Also the formula is a distortion of and a basic deviation from the original three language formula of 1955 as revised in 1961, which gave the mother tongue the status of First language and thus treated all languages and all linguistic communities equally.

The Government must immediately correct the distortion, reinstate mother tongue as the first language, make Hindi or Regional language compulsory for linguistic minorities as Second language and provide for English or any other M.I.L. as third language.

(viii) Need for immediate financial and other assistance to West Bengal affected by the recent cyclone

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): The unprecedented cyclone in recent memory on 29th and 30th November

has hit wide areas of West Bengal particularly in South 24 parganas and Midnapur districts. After the Meteorological Office was set up in 1867 in Calcutta there was never any cyclone of this magnitude recorded.

The preliminary estimates show that more than 80 people died, 2 million people are affected, more than 1 lakh mud houses have collapsed and standing and ripe paddy crop has been damaged upto 60% in certain places, and more or less heavily in most places. Vegetables and potato growing is also seriously affected.

The West Bengal Finance Minister has appealed for Rs. 25 crore as relief immediately and has communicated with the Minister of Finance to that effect. I urge for urgent steps for despatching money and other materials by the Central Government.

[Translation]

(ix) Need to declare Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar as a Central University

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a first and very old university in Sagar, in Madhya Pradesh, which was named after its founder Dr. Hari Singh Gaur, the great intellectual and generous person. The university has not reached the heights of anticipated development so far to turn the dreams of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur into reality.

All the students, their guardians, intellectuals and citizens are demanding that this university should be given the status of a central university and they are making preparations to start on agitation because of delay caused in meeting their demand.

So, it is necessary to give this university the status of a central university and it is also necessary to open the institutes of Pharmacy and Ayurved in this university. The Government should respect the feelings of the people.