

senior Ministers are under consideration ... \*\*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record.

12.19 hrs.

RE. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY  
THE MINISTRIES TO MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENT.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): I am on a point of order I would like to make a submission. Just a few days ago on the floor of the House the Railway Minister gave us an assurance that he will see and guarantee that everything is bilingual .... (Interruption) I have received a communication from his Ministry purely in Hindi, the whole lot of it including the.... (Interruptions) and the only thing that is legible to me and understandable to me is the smiling visage of the Railway Minister. Therefore I would like to know, why the Railway Ministry consistently and persistently continues to inflict totally Hindi communications on us, who are not able to read Hindi. Does he not want us to know what is happening? Does he not want us to know what he is saying? Does he not want to protest us from this kind of imposition? (Interruptions).

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry). I can follow only the picture. The picture is there. That is the only thing we can follow. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER Don't record.

(Interruptions) \*\*

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): Sir, the point that the hon. lady member has made is not a matter to be bypassed. It is the right of a member to write a letter to the Minister and it is accepted that the Minister, as a sort of convention and relationship with the member, communicates the reply to the member. The second point is that there have been assurances given here that the language matter will be accom-

modated. Here, the question is, a member seeking an information and the Minister communicating in a language which the Minister knows that the member does not understand. There are three things. Firstly, it is the right of a member to get a reply in the language he can understand. Secondly, it is a matter of the observance of the assurance given by the Minister in the House that this language matter will not be rubbed on the wrong side as far as the members are concerned. Thirdly there is the question of this assurance being carried out. Therefore, it cannot be bypassed as if nothing has happened at all. The Minister owes a reply to the hon. lady member who has raised this query. (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, I have no doubt given an assurance and I stand by that. The Prime Minister has also given an assurance to the House that no language will be forced on anyone. Recently, we have brought out a report on the working of the Railway Ministry in the course of the year and we have published it both in Hindi and English. But through mistake if some pamphlet published in Hindi has gone to some members.... (Interruptions).

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Every day, every minute, not only the Railways but also the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and others are the culprits in this regard.... (Interruptions)

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: We never expected such a thing from Mr. Madhu Dandavate. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. GOPAL: I am sorry to say, not with anger—the Prime Minister is sitting here, let us settle it—that the people from the south are feeling that if you want to go this way, the day will come when they will lose confidence in Delhi. I would request the Prime Minister to give a categorical assurance to say that his assurance

[Shri K. Gopal]

will be implemented. He is sitting here, let him say that. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want the Railway Minister to reply? (Interruptions) Mr. Dandavate, you enquire into the matter and see how it has happened.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What is normally done is that we send it both in Hindi and English. About the pamphlet brought out by the Hindi *Salahkar Samiti*, if that has gone in Hindi, I shall find out whether it has been sent only in Hindi. I have not seen the pamphlet. But if it is regarding the speech delivered in the Hindi *Salahkar Samiti*, then probably, it might have been in Hindi. But I want to assure the House: recently we have sent three publications to all the Members, i.e. regarding the review of the Railway Ministry for one year, the facilities to the passengers .. (Interruptions).

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): May I suggest something... (Interruptions). The Minister says he has not yet seen this. Kindly pass on the complaint to him. I have assured you that he will enquire into the matter and, if there has been anything wrong, he will take appropriate steps.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He knows it: it is his speech on Hindi. It has nothing to do with the working of the Railways. It is his review. I won't read the whole review, which is about the Hindi language: I will only quote one view of the Hon. Minister.

"वोट जनभाषा में मांगना और नोट धम्रेजी में लिखना जनवादी व्यवस्था से मेल नहीं खाता।"

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He says he is going to look into the matter and let you know.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I want to know whether he has said this:

"वोट जनभाषा में मांगना और नोट धम्रेजी में लिखना जनवादी व्यवस्था से मेल नहीं खाता।"

What does this mean? It means he will not write even 'yes' or 'no' in English because he had asked for the vote in Hindi. This is sheer chauvinism. These are his views: I want him to make an explanation on this point. (Interruption).

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: (Quilon). Sir, there is a Sub Committee of the Cabinet for the propagation of Hindi and that Sub-Committee insists that 20 per cent of the notings must be in Hindi. How can those officers who do not know Hindi make 20 per cent of the notings in Hindi as is insisted upon?

MR. SPEAKER: Every day we are having this.... (Interruption).

SHRI SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Dharmapuri): Will you kindly permit me to read this Circular.... (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramamurthy, please send the matter to me. (Interruptions).

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: As a presiding officer, it is your duty to see that every commitment made by the Prime Minister, every assurance made by the Government, is fulfilled. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I will call a meeting of all the leaders and consider the matter—how best this controversy can be avoided. Every day we are having a lot of controversy on this matter. I am not blaming anybody. (Interruptions) I will call a meeting of all the leaders, discuss the matter with them and try to find out a way to avoid this controversy and to see that everybody will abide by the decision placed

before the House by the Prime Minister. I shall see that the decision is implemented in the matter. If any machinery is to be created, we will create a machinery to inquire into individual cases and see how the matter can be dealt with (*Interruptions*)

12.35 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—  
contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, objection by Mr. Unnikrishnan.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN (Badagara): I presume this is not a ritual. I have been bringing to your notice on a number of occasions violations of the normal procedure in the House regarding papers to be laid

Now these reports relate to 1971-72—8 years and 9 years old. Now, I do not know how you can permit them. Sir, this Table should not be used as a kind of a waste-paper basket. I assume that there is some sanctity attached to it. I do not know how you can permit them to bring in all these documents and put them on the Table of the House. This calls for a serious inquiry and I want you to again give them a very serious warning.

Sir, please go through 1971-72 and 1972-73.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I will refer it to the Committee because that is the only thing that is permissible under the Rules.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: You must also tell the government. It is well within the rules and your jurisdiction.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Rules or no Rules, you have already given a ruling sometime ago to the effect that a statement for delay in laying the papers must be circulated to the members in advance. ...

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: That is accepted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Hon. Member, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu brought this to your notice otherwise reasons for the delay are not known to the members and at that time you were good enough to mention that statements for delay should be circulated in advance of laying the papers.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: This is not satisfactory.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Not one Ministry circulates the statements containing reasons for delay in advance. Sir, unless these statements are circulated in advance, we are completely deprived of our right to intervene at the stage of the papers being laid on the Table of the House. We do not know why there is delay. Sometimes, seven years or eight years delay. If such delays are allowed, then the people who have misappropriated the money and people who have bungled the accounts may be out of the country, may be out of the reach of Parliament and then Parliament becomes helpless. So, Sir, your ruling that statements of reasons for the delay must be circulated in advance should be complied with by the Ministries. At present not a single Minister is complying with it.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): You have rightly said just now that whatever can be done can be done only on the basis of the rules. That is under the rule which gives you power to refer it to the committee. That, of course, can be done. But there are two serious matters arising out of this.

One is that if the delay is of an extra-ordinary nature as in this case it is 6 or 7 years—I agree that the delay is not only by this government, even the previous government did not put it because for four years they did not do it and so this government and the previous government, both, are responsible. ...