

2 July 56

And now Mr. Morarji Desai. There is obviously to be no end to the already formidable array of V.I.Ps. who have delivered themselves of sage observations as to what should and what should not be the future line to be adopted with regard to Hindi. Mr. Morarji Desai is, of course, neither the last nor the least of the galaxy. Happily, also, what he said was something that can bear repetition: simplify Hindi grammar, let it grow naturally, do not adopt a dogmatic approach towards Hindi etc. etc. These are things that have been said again and again, and yet they do seem to require constant reiteration because, although the very hills and valleys of the land seem to echo with the words, they have as yet acquired neither the urgency of a national slogan nor the strength of a popular belief. Hindi continues to go the Varanasi way. And, to look at the other side of the medal, it continues to be talked about much more than actually helped. Of course there should be no 'dogmatic approach', but that should not mean, as it has in effect come to mean in many a state outside the so-called Hindi area, that there should be no 'approach' at all. Let Mr. Morarji Desai take the opportunity of doing a real national service—for he believes in national unity through Hindi—by getting his Government to declare that in matters of normal promotion, state employees will receive special consideration for an efficient knowledge of Hindi. Let Bombay Government servants gain not one but two annual increments

if they pass a Hindi examination of a recognised standard. The resultant wave of enthusiasm for Hindi will be worth any number of speeches.