

HINDI AS STATE LANGUAGE

SAMMELAN COMMITTEE TO ASSESS PROGRESS

Legislature Only Can Amend 'Official' Language

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

BHATPAR-RANI (Deoria), March 6.—The two-day session of the U.P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, which concluded here today, appointed a committee 'to assess the progress Hindi has made as the Official Language of the state and suggest ways and means for removing obstacles and handicaps that impede the progress of Hindi as the accepted State language'.

By another resolution the U. P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan dubbed the recent circular issued by the Chief Secretary to the U. P. Government regarding the form and content of the official language as 'unconstitutional' and 'detrimental to the interests of the State'. The resolution referred to clause 351 of the Constitution and recalled how emphasis had been laid there on drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages. The Constitution had amply clarified the value of 'the genius, forms, style and expressions' of Hindi and cautioned us against any undue interference with it. There was no insistence there on the use of Roman script and English for technical terms. 'Only legislature, and not the Chief Secretary, was competent to take any new decision in this connection' the resolution said.

The 'dictate' issued by the Chief Secretary to the U. P. Government in the form of his recent circular, was described as 'arbitrary and improper' by the U. P. Hindi Sahitya Sam-

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melan. The U. P. Government was requested to put a curb on 'arbitrary dictates' by officials.

The Sammelan welcomed the efforts being made by Hindi writers and scholars to enrich and broaden the Hindi language as the medium of popular expression as well as the vehicle of higher thought and creation. It, however, reiterated the competence of the Legislature alone to amend or revise the form and content of the official language of the State. 'Let us profit by our experience, but let us not do anything in arbitrariness or haste' the Sammelan resolution said.

SUGGESTIONS

The Sammelan further resolved that keeping in view the growing requirements of Hindi at present and in future, the achievements of the Hindi Samiti appointed by the U. P. Government were 'inadequate and unsatisfactory'. The Sammelan made the following suggestions in this connection:

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(1) The selection and publication of books by the Hindi Samiti should be made according to a well-considered plan.

(2) Priority should be given to publications which are too costly to be undertaken by private publishers.

(3) Rare books of knowledge in different fields of learning should be rendered into Hindi from other languages.

(4) Classics of Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali and other Asian languages should be brought out in cheaper editions.

(5) Authenticity and quality should be the hallmarks of Samiti publications.

The Sammelan by another resolution welcomed the revision of the Gazeteers written during the British rule, but demanded the publication of these Gazeteers in Hindi, the official language of the state.

Through a resolution the session deplored the fact that due recognition was not given by State and Union Governments to the degrees of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and to the graduates who passed the examinations conducted by the Sammelan. Justice and fair treatment to the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan was demanded in a resolution.

'DEEP REGRET'

The Pradesik Sammelan further expressed 'deep regret' at the continued stalemate in the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, the central Hindi organisation, and felt that in the present circumstances the Union Government could think of granting a special charter to the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, as the central organisation of Hindi functioning as a statutory and autonomous body for the propagation of Hindi as envisaged in the Constitution.

By a resolution the Central Post & Telegraphs department was congratulated for providing facilities for Hindi telegrams in most of the main cities and townships of the Hindi-speaking states. While the Government was requested to do away with all discrimination in this connection and to popularise the Hindi telegrams service, people also requested to make full use of these facilities wherever available.

By another resolution the U. P. Sammelan deplored the 'arbitrary and unconstitutional' statements made by some Central and State Ministers from time to time about the official language of the Indian Union. It made a plea for the observance of a code of conduct by Ministers in this connection. 1832

As regards Hindi as the medium of higher education, the

U.P. Sammelan reiterated its previous stand that in the Hindi speaking states Hindi should occupy the position of such a medium in all its implications. Whatever was done to introduce and strengthen Hindi as the medium of instruction in U. P. universities was welcomed by the Pradeshik Sammelan. But the attitude to sabotage or obstruct this process on the excuse of the paucity of books in Hindi was characterised as 'bigoted and devoid of vision'. Unless the atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty with regard to the Hindi medium was replaced by an air of certainty, the required number and quality of books for higher education and research in Hindi could hardly be expected to emerge in concrete terms. The Sammelan requested the universities to pool together their resources in this connection and called upon the U. P. University Grants Committee and the Central University Grants Commission to extend due facilities to the universities specifically for this purpose. The initiative taken by private publishers in this connection despite all handicaps and difficulties, was commended by the Sammelan.

TULSI MANDIR

The Sammelan by a resolution welcomed the steps taken to preserve the Tulsi Mandir at Rajapur in Banda district and the move to raise a national memorial to Poet Tulsidas there. It, however, appealed to the Government and the people to do their utmost to make this project, a fitting national memorial to a great poet. The Sammelan expressed the hope that early and proper steps would be taken to raise befitting memorials to great poets like Tulsidas, Surdas and Jayasi.

At the outset, the Sammelan adopted a condolence resolution, mourning the deaths of Dr. Bhagwan Das, Goswami Ganesh Dutt, Pt. Krishna Bihari Misra, Pt. Chandrabali Pande, Acharya Narendra Deva, Shri G. V. Mavlankar, Shri Baburao Vishnu Paradkar, Shri Girja Dutt Shukla 'Girish', Shri Chandra Shekhar Bajpeyi, Shri Lalita Prasad Sukul, Shri Nathuram Premi, Shri Jagadamba Prasad 'Hitaishi', Shri Devi Dutt Shukla, Acharya Chatursen Shastri Shri Bhagawan Das Kela and Shri R. R. Khadilkar among others.

HINDI CHALAO MOVEMENT

The U. P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan by a resolution supported Seth Govind Das's proposal for 'HINDI CHALAO' movement in U. P., M. P., Bihar and Rajasthan.

By another resolution the Sammelan stressed the necessity of creating a broad-based national network of Hindi news service and Hindi teleprinter arrangements for promotion of Hindi journalism.

The unhelpful policy of the University Grants Commission towards the Hindi medium in universities was also deplored by a resolution.

NUMERALS

The Sammelan emphasized the need to eradicate the so-called 'international numerals' from the officially accepted Nagari script.

The desirability of preparing detailed reference books on various 'Janapadas' was also stressed by the session, at the suggestion of the president, Pt. Banarsi Das Chaturvedi, who was elected convener of the committee formed to put forward constructive suggestions in this direction.

Dr. Uday Narain Tiwari, general secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, has been elected convener of the Sammelan committee to assess the progress of Hindi as State language in U. P. He has been authorised to nominate six other members.

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