

# Official Language Controversy!

The BJP which sunk its roots very deeply in Northern and Central Indian states has presently chosen to rake the controversial issue of imposing Hindi as “official language” in the name of making an important part of national unity. It intends to implement its agenda of its variety of nationalism of “one language, one religion and one nation” by imposing Hindi as the national language. BJP in accordance with its long standing plank of Hindutva movement has been insisting that Hindi should be the national language of India.

Presiding over the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the parliament’s official language committee the Union Home Minister said PM Modi had decided that the medium of running the government would be the official language and this would definitely increase the importance of Hindi. Thus it was made clear that the Central government decided to impose Hindi language.

Even prior to this announcement, the BJP government has been promoting Hindi, as the official language in several ways: the names of the Central government schemes are named in Hindi. The parliamentary committee has proposed to make the use of Hindi mandatory for MPs and Union Ministers. Hindi made a compulsory subject for Central Board of Secondary Education schools across the country. The milestones on national highways are being relettered in Hindi, instead of English. Hindi is being used in airport announcements. Central government is issuing media advertisements in Hindi. Launching ‘promotional campaigns’ exclusively in Hindi script. The well known occasions of festivities are renamed in Hindi or Sanskrit such as Teacher’s day as Guru Purnima.

With such attempts BJP government is attempting to impose cultural uniformity in India as per the agenda of Hindutva reactionary forces.

Already various organisations in north east-region are protesting against Centre’s move to make Hindi a compulsory language in several parts across the eight states in the north-east. Home Minister Amit Shah

announced that Hindi would be made a must up to class 10 in the regional schools. He also informed that 22,000 teachers have been recruited to teach Hindi in the North-Eastern states.

The North East Students' organisations opposed this move calling it as an imposition. Meghalaya's congress legislator opposed this move saying that the Khasi and Garo – speaking state cannot allow Hindi to be imposed. In Mizoram the Young Mizo Association opposed this move. In Assam Krishak Mukti Sangam Samiti condemned the move as “anti-democracy and anti-constitution” and against the federal structure of the country. It said that the BJP led govt. has been taking anti-Assamese decisions since 2016 by first removing the Assamese paper from Assam PSC exams. Regional political parties such as Rajbor Dal and Assam Jatiya Parishad have also opposed this move.

That a language binds national unity is a myth. It is the policies pursued by the rulers and governments that bind the unity or break the unity. The best example is the combined Andhra Pradesh, formed under the aspirations of VISALANDHRA, uniting people speaking of the same language Telugu which is ultimately divided in to two separate states by the ruling class political parties, for their vested interests, undermining and breaking unity, by pushing the wedge of regional sentiments between people.

India is a multi-lingual country from ages, which has no necessity of any particular language to unite them in to a nation.

That the BJP rulers' are moving to give Hindi-speakers the economic, academic, administrative edge and let them control non-Hindi speaking regions country in the long run is an irrefutable reality.

The nation has been already a witness to many serious agitations opposing the imposition of an 'official language' Hindi as a national language. Particularly the anti-Hindi agitation in 1960's shall be an eye-opener against such sinister moves.

With this move, as usual the BJP government and the Hindutva brigade are raking this controversy to create a problem in order to divert the attention of people of this country from real and serious issues and to fall prey to sensitive illusionary issues.

**Beware of this Nefarious Attempts of Hindutva Forces!**