

CONGRESS HAS NOT DECIDED ON INDIA'S 'LINGUA FRANCA'.

Why Should Madras Ministry Be So Hasty?

Mr. T. R. Maduramuthu Moopanar, Pleader, Tanjore, writes under date 15-6-38:—

The policy of the Madras Ministry to introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject in the Secondary Schools is to be questioned in all its aspects. From the point of view of the Congress, it is not the Madras Ministry that must decide on a common language for India. Neither the Congress nor its working committee has decided on it. It is also questionable whether Hindi is the most widely spoken language. Is it not Urdu that is more widely spoken than Hindi?

The province needs diffusion of primary education. It is this education that needs compulsion. The unemployment problem needs diffusion of the education of Industry and Science through the mother tongue. When the Province is under such a plight, it is not advisable to force upon tender youths the study of a new language to the detriment of their mental progress and physical health. Hindi in Southern India will not be useful to the students for eking out their livelihood.

The promise of not making failure in the Hindi examination a bar to promotion cannot be guaranteed for its steadiness. The Ministry has not considered the difficulties and losses involved in the event of another language being chosen to be common.

The Honourable Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar has raised certain issues on the Anti-Hindi Propaganda, one of which is whether a Government chosen by the people is or is not at liberty to give a liberal education to the boys of the Province. Liberty consists not in doing what one wishes but in doing what one ought. A liberal education is to be based upon the liberty of the people and not capriciously. The introduction of compulsory Hindi was not an election issue and is not incidental to the fulfilment of the election promises.

Mr. Rajagopalachariar raises the question whether the Ministers of the people should govern or a few disgruntled persons should be allowed to intimidate them. Is the conception of intimidation, if any, in the Anti-Hindi Propaganda quite different from that which the Congress propagated and practised in the past? Should not Mr. Achariar measure others by his own measure? The real point in issue in the "Anti-Hindi Propaganda" is, not 'Needs must when the Devil drives', but that if the Government don't do its duty, the citizens will do theirs. It is a pity that the magnitude of the Anti-Hindi support appears small in the eye of the Premier.