

PRESIDENTIAL ORDER, 1960

Copy of Notification No. 2/8/60-0.L. (Ministry of Home Affairs), dated 27th April, 1960

NOTIFICATION

The following Order made by the President is published for general information

ORDER

A Committee consisting of 20 members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members of the Rajya Sabha was constituted in accordance with the provisions of clause (4) of article 344 of the Constitution to examine the recommendations of the first Official language Commission and to report their opinion thereon to the president. The Committee submitted its report to the President on 8th February, 1959. The important points in the report indicating the Committee's general approach are as follows:-

1. The Constitution contains an integrated scheme of Official Language and its approach to the question is flexible and admits of appropriate adjustments being made within the frame work of the scheme.
2. Different regional languages are rapidly replacing English as a medium of instruction and of official work in the states. It is but natural that the regional languages should secure their rightful place. The use of an Indian Language for the purposes of the Union has thus become a matter of practical necessity, but there need be no rigid date-line for the changeover. It should be a natural transition over a period of time effected smoothly and with the minimum of inconvenience.
3. English should be the principal Official Language and Hindi the subsidiary Official Language till 1965. After 1965, when Hindi becomes the principal Official Language of the Union, English should continue as the subsidiary Official Language.
4. No restriction should be imposed for the present on the use of English for any of the purposes of the Union and provision should be made in terms of clause (3) of article 343 for the continue use of English even after 1965 for purposes to be specified by Parliament by law for as long as may be necessary.
5. Considerable importance attaches to the provision in article 351 that Hindi should be so developed that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and every encouragement should be given to the use of easy and simple words.

Copies of the report were placed on the table of both Houses of Parliament in April, 1959 and the report was discussed in the Lok Sabha from 2nd to 4th September, 1959, and in the Rajya Sabha on 8th and 9th September, 1959. In the course of the discussions in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister made a speech on 4th September, 1959 indicating broadly the approach of the Government to the Official Language question.

1. In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of article 344, the President has considered the report of the Committee and with reference to the opinion expressed by the Committee on the recommendations of the Official Language Commission issues the directions herein after appearing.
2. Terminology- The main recommendations of the Commission which the Committee has accepted are:
 1. In the preparing terminology clarity, precision and simplicity should be primarily aimed at;
 2. International terminology may be adopted or adapted in suitable cases;
 3. The maximum possible identity should be aimed at in evolving terminology for all Indian Languages; and
 4. Suitable arrangements should be made for co-coordinating the efforts made at the Centre and in the States for evolving terminology in Hindi and other Indian Languages. The Committee envisages further that in the field of science and technology, there should, as far as possible, be uniformity in all Indian languages and terminology should approximate closely to English or international terms and has suggested that Standing Commission consisting chiefly of scientists and technologists may be constituted to co-ordinate and supervise the work done by various agencies in this field and to issue authoritative glossaries for use in all Indian languages.

The Ministry of Education may take action:-

1. To review the work done so far and to evolve terminology in accordance with the general principles accepted by the Committee in the field of science and technology, the terms in International use should be adopted with the minimum change i.e., the base-words should be those at present in use in international terminology, although the derivatives may be Indianised to the extent necessary;
2. To formulate proposals for making arrangements for coordination of the work of preparation of terminology; and
3. To constitute a Standing Commission for the evolution of scientific and technical terminology as suggested by the Committee.