

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 3RD JULY, 2017 AT MA ANSARI AUDITORIUM, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA, NEW DELHI

Prof. Avanish Kumar, Chairman, Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology,

Prof. Talat Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia University,

Officials of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education,

Distinguished participants,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be associated with this National Seminar and Workshop on 'Terminology in Indian languages: Past, Present and Future' organized by the Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India. The Commission has been constantly striving for the last 55 years towards enrichment and dissemination of knowledge and development of education in the country through Hindi and other Indian languages.

Language is the medium of communication and it means to convey most adequately the thought and feelings of the user. It, therefore, becomes imperative to use exact and befitting words to convey a sense which is complete and perfect. While choosing a word, its cultural propriety and scientific implication in the right context is to be considered. Moreover, there should be greater flexibility and freedom in choosing a word. Only when we have adequate words for expression and passing on knowledge, the Vedic chant 'tamaso ma joytirgamaya, asato ma sadgamaya' will become more meaningful. Roughly translated, in this chant we pray to Almighty God to release us from the veil of darkness of ignorance to a region of light of knowledge and wisdom.

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has been engaged in evolving and publicizing the terminology in Hindi and all other Indian languages which are in the Eighth Schedule for the development of the languages. The evolved Terminology should not only be simple to be adoptable in general but it should also convey proper and suitable meaning within its given reference. Evolved terminology can sometimes be quite complex when it is for a specific context. The Commission is also recognized as a top institution in India for the evolution of scientific and technical terminology. I have also been given to understand that during the three days, the distinguished delegates will deliberate several issues of quality education pertaining to terminology of language, etc. The exercise and deliberations not only track the progress made towards the goals but also highlight the experiences in different parts of the country as well as the lessons learnt in the process and challenges that remain to be addressed.

It has been the endeavour of the Commission to garner perfection by taking opinion of experts in different subjects as well as different languages. This aspect is a focus area of the Commission for the development of the glossaries in Hindi and all other Indian languages. I am sure evolving a Hindi equivalent of an English word is not an easy task, it is the result of discussion with the subject experts, language experts and linguistics. Similar is the situation with the equivalent words of other languages to English. Another commendable work that has been done by the Terminology Commission is to make persistent efforts to bring science and technology together to the general reading public and aims at establishing Hindi and all other Indian languages as medium of instruction. It is constantly engaged in coining the terminology in Hindi and all other Indian languages. Further, it is the base for the authors who are willing to write books in Hindi and other Indian languages.

As you are well aware, the Indian subcontinent consists of a number of separate linguistic communities each of which shares a common language and culture. The people of India speak many languages and dialects which are mostly varieties of about 15 principal languages. Some Indian languages have a long literary history - Sanskrit literature is more than 5,000 years old and Tamil 3,000. India also has some languages that do not have written forms. There are so many officially recognized languages in India with Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali added in 1992 and each has produced a literature of great vitality and richness. Though distinctive in parts, all stand for a homogeneous culture that is the essence of the great Indian literature. These languages also work as a unifying force of this great Nation. Therefore, the efforts made by the Commission for a common Scientific and Technical Terminology will indeed be an invaluable contribution to the country in more ways than one. Let us join together in our mission to change the country. With these words, I, once again, express my happiness for being here on this occasion.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.