

SINHALESE AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF CEYLON.

Mr. Jayewardene: Sir, I wish to move the motion standing in my name. I have given notice to secure the permission of the House to suspend Standing Orders in order to enable me to move this motion and dispose of it to-day.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya
(Galle) seconded.

Question, " That the relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the motion to be moved and disposed of this day put, and agreed to.

Mr. Jayewardene: Sir, the motion standing in my name reads as follows:

That with the object of making Sinhalese the official language of Ceylon within a reasonable number of years this Council is of opinion—

- (a) That Sinhalese should be made the medium of instruction in all schools;
- (b) That Sinhalese should be made a compulsory subject in all public examinations ;
- (c) That Legislation should be introduced to permit the business of the State Council to be conducted in Sinhalese also ;
- (d) That a Commission should- be appointed to choose for translation and to translate important books of other languages, into Sinhalese;
- (e) That a Commission should be appointed to report on all steps that need be taken to effect the transition from English into Sinhalese.

Representations have been made _ to' me by many of my Tamil friends—.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Leader of the State Council and Minfstep of Agriculture and Lands) : I should like to have a ruling on a point of order. Would this motion not be anticipating the motion of the Hon. Minister of Education, where he says that the medium of education should be the mother tongue? We are trying to decide that, Sinhalese should be the mother tongue. I am not saying anything against it, but I only want to be certain that we are in order.

***Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Mataie):** May I submit that these motions are dealt with in the order-of priority; and the motion of the hon. Member for Relaniya is very much earlier than the motion of the Hon. Minister of Education. There might have been some sense in the hon. Member for Kelaniya raising that point of order when the Hon. Minister moved his motion, But not in this case.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. B. Nihili (Legal Secretary): point of order. Should not, the hon. Member explain why it is necessary to suspend Standing Orders ?

Mr. Speaker: We have wassed the motion to suspend Standing Orders already.