

Speech of Smt. D. Purandeswari MOS –HRD (HE)
on the occasion of 2nd convocation of
Maulana Azad national Urdu University,
held on 16th Jun, 2007

Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development and Mr. Vice Chancellor and other distinguished guests, I am really delighted to be present here on the occasion of the 2nd Annual Convocation of the Maulana Azad Nation Urdu University.

This University was established in 1998 as a Central University with an all India jurisdiction and with the mandate to promote and develop the Urdu language, provide higher, technical and vocational education in the Urdu medium and to provide focus on women's education. The very name and idea of the University suggests that the Government recognizes and places special emphasis on Urdu as one of the national languages. It is a language of the masses. It is a language of idea and emotion that has served to build bridges across nationalities and cultures. It is the language of drama, cinema, poetry, politics and everyday conversation among the masses cutting across all artificial distinctions of caste, creed, religion and the like.

It is indeed very unfortunate that an unseemly controversy has been raging for some time on the status of Urdu by identifying the language with a group of people belonging to a particular religion or community. This is a travesty of truth to say the least. We in India have never regarded it as a language belonging to a particular group of people professing a particular faith or residing at a particular region or regions. On the contrary, we regard it very much as an Indian language which has been duly recognized as such and included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is given the status of an official language in a number of states in the Indian Union including A.P, Bihar, Delhi, J&K and Uttar Pradesh.

In India, Urdu is spoken in large parts of the UP, Delhi, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore. Some Indian schools teach Urdu as a first language and have their own syllabus and exams. Indian madrasahs also teach Arabic as well as Urdu India has more than 2,900 daily Urdu news papers. News papers such as Daily Salar, Daily Pasban, Siasat Daily, Munsif Daily and Inquilab are published and distributed in Bangalore, Mysore, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

Today, even a cursory look at the Urdu milieu discloses the fact that the language is spoken by a speaker belonging both to an affluent section of people as well as by economically and socially disadvantaged citizens and that it is spoken in nearly every State of the country and enjoys wide social and cultural patronage and acceptability.

As I said earlier, Urdu language is recognized mainly known for literature, poetry and Ghazals and yet this is only partly true. It serves as a medium of instruction in several institutions in India and abroad up to university level in many subjects including medical and engineering courses. We must not allow this language to languish and be relegated to backwaters. It is unfortunate that the language that once was the medium of instruction for technical and professional courses, for Arts, Commerce and Humanities has now become a barrier to pursue higher education. The Government, therefore decided to remove this barrier and the basic idea for setting up this University was to convert this barrier into a bridge by offering modern, higher and technical education in the Urdu medium

I would like to emphasize even at the cost of repetition that it was with this very object and purpose that this Central

University was established in 1998. The government realized that in the 21st century, a new society is emerging where knowledge is the primary production resource instead of capital and labour. The Knowledge society is empowered by innovative capacity. Efficient utilisation of this existing knowledge could create comprehensive wealth of the nation and also improve the quality of life - in the form of better health, education, infrastructure and other social indicators. Ability to create and maintain the knowledge infrastructure, develop knowledge workers and enhance their productivity through creation, growth and exploitation of new knowledge, will be key factors in deciding the prosperity of Knowledge Society. Whether a nation is progressing towards the knowledge society can be judged by the way the country effectively deals with knowledge creation and knowledge deployment in all sectors like IT, Industries, Agriculture, Health Care etc. Maulana Azad National Urdu University as conceived by the Government has a major role to play in this context in transforming the Urdu speaking members of the society into knowledge workers through their dual mode education system.

The faculty members of Maulana Azad national Urdu University have the responsibility for building the capacity

among the students relevant to the society. For participating in the nation building tasks, the capacities required to be built up among the students by the faculty members of this University are: the capacity for research and inquiry, the capacity for creativity and innovation, particularly the creative transfer of knowledge, the capacity to use high technology, and the capacity for entrepreneurial leadership. The aim of the faculty members should be to build up character, and human values, and also to enhance the learning capacity of the students through technology and build the confidence among them. I have no doubt that the University will acquit itself creditably in discharging these responsibilities.

With these words, I would like to congratulate all students on their academic performance and convey my best wishes to the university authorities on their effective contributions to the cause of growth and development of Urdu Language. I have no doubt that the University will continue to make untiring efforts for attaining perfection and excellence in the years to come.

Jai Hind.