

linguistic domination and in what way will Government help us to come rapidly to the national stream by learning a language that is common to the whole of India?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The hon. Member has raised another and a different point. Evidently, he is not in favour of Assamese being the language; so, he wants to counter what the original questioner has been trying to do. I would suggest that they should settle it between themselves.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit that because the Government of India has accepted that policy.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Trade with Afghanistan

\*1466. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent on the closing of border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the trade between India and Afghanistan has deteriorated;

(b) if so, the extent of deterioration; and

(c) how the trade between India and Afghanistan is being carried on at present.

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a). Yes, Sir, the trade has declined.

(b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

##### Statement:

Early in September, 1961, the land route via Pakistan was closed for trade between India and Afghanistan.

This resulted in some decline in the trade between India and Afghanistan as will be seen from the following figures. For comparison purposes these figures are given for the periods September, 1961—February 1962, (Latest figures for exports only available upto February, 1962) and corresponding periods during 1960-61 and 1959-60:

Period	Value: Rs. in lakhs		
	*Exports to Afghanistan	†Imports from Afghanistan	Total Trade
September, 1959	293	443	736
February, 1960			
September, 1960	388	359	747
February, 1961			
September, 1961	188	88	276
February, 1962			

There are indications that trade has improved since owing mainly to the Transit Agreement between Afghanistan and Iran which enabled Afghan goods passing through Iranian territory and Iranian ports en route to India.

\*These figures are upto January in each case.

(c). The trade between India and Afghanistan is being carried on by air and by sea via Iranian ports.

##### Data on Space Science

\*1474. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any arrangements for the collection, collation and dissemination of data in the field of space science;

(b) whether such data are being circulated among scientists in this country; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up any machinery for the purpose?