

Emergency

3922. Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to delay the lifting of Emergency from 1st July, 1967; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) and (b). The Home Minister has already made a statement on the subject in the House on 22nd June, 1967.

Percentage Increase in Literacy

3923. Shri K. Lakkappa: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the percentage of increase in Literacy in the country today since 1962?

The Minister of Education (Dr. Triguna Sen): According to the estimate literacy during 1961-71 is expected to increase at the rate of about 1 per cent per annum. The 1961 Census figure was 24 per cent of the total population. Subject to the assumptions of the projection, the estimated figure for 1967 is about 30 per cent.

**"The Continent of Circe" by
Nirad C. Chaudhury**

3924. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks made about the Assamese people in Mr. Nirad C. Chaudhury's book "The Continent of Circe" on pages 36 and 37;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined that these remarks are neither factually nor historically true and are likely to add to the secretarian tensions; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is being examined by the Government of Assam with a view to take suitable and effective action.

Teaching Science and Mathematics in Schools

3926. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the present curriculum of teaching Science and Mathematics in our schools has been made;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) whether any step is taken for giving emphasis on developing a disciplined understanding of basic fundamentals of Mathematics?

The Minister of Education (Dr. Triguna Sen): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some serious defects have been identified. The curriculum is for the most part dated since it does not include modern concepts on the understanding of science and mathematics. The text books used are not of adequate quality and the teaching methods adopted lack investigative and experimental approach. Teachers have not been provided with manuals, guides and other instructional materials. Laboratory apparatus and equipment are still of the conventional type and unsuited to teaching science along modern lines.

(c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training, with the assistance of experts, has undertaken a comprehensive programme to revise and upgrade the curriculum, produce model textbooks and teachers' guides and design laboratory experimental units. In the new curriculum, emphasis is laid on the development of basic concepts of science and mathe-