

drawn to the statement by Mr. Ben Kheda that there are attempts of great pressure exerted to change the Evian Agreement? In view of that, may I know whether our support to the Provisional Algerian Government would not actually help them to fight out those who now want to change the Evian Agreement?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not think it will make any difference if the Evian Agreement is upset, in any way it will create a very serious situation. Only yesterday or the day before President De Gaulle spoke very strongly in favour of the Evian Agreement and said that in 24 or 25 days Algeria would be free.

#### Assamese Language in Nefā

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\*1480. { **Shri Hem Barua:**  
           { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the NEFA Education Sub-Committee recently held at Shillong has decided to relegate Assamese to the position of an optional subject in that administrative area;

(b) if so, whether this decision does not go counter to the policy of Government vis-a-vis the medium of instruction in NEFA schools; and

(c) the reaction of Government to this decision of NEFA Education Sub-Committee?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) to (c). No. The NEFA Education Sub-Committee had a general discussion to consider the three-language formula evolved at the last Chief Ministers' Conference. Since the matter involved higher policy, it could not be decided at Sub-Committee level. In fact, no recommendation on the subject has been finalised. Hence, any decision to change the medium of instruction in the NEFA schools does not arise.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that this decision of the NEFA Education Sub-Committee goes counter to the accepted policy of the Government—their decision was to relegate Assamese to the status of an optional language—may I know whether those officers are being admonished for inspiring disruptive activities there?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** As I have already pointed out in the answer, since the Sub-Committee's decision involves a question of policy, it is not being taken into consideration at all.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Dhebar Committee has recommended against the imposition of Hindi and Assamese in NEFA and whether this has given encouragement to some of the NEFA officers to steadily oust Assamese and, if so, what steps are Government undertaking in that direction?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** This question was also before us. There has been a review of the language policy in NEFA and it has been decided to introduce Assamese as the medium of instruction.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** How many and which of the Government officers constituted the sub-committee?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have not got the names.

**Shri Swell:** People of NEFA are a section of the Hill people in the north eastern part of India. I know the people of NEFA and the people of the Hills. The question stands in the name of Shri Hem Barua and I am prefacing my question with certain statements.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not permissible.

**Shri Swell:** The Hills people have expressed themselves against learning Assamese. What steps do the Government propose to take to protect the Hill people from Assamese

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?