

(a) whether Central Government have advised the State Government of Assam on the need to modify its language policy;

(b) if so, to what extent the State Government has modified its policy; and

(c) whether the demands of the people of Cachar and the hill districts have been met?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Assam have agreed to undertake legislation to amend the Assam Official Language Act, 1960 so as to delete the provision relating to Mahkuma Parishads. They have also agreed that communications between the State Headquarters, and Cachar and the autonomous Hill Districts will continue to be in English until English is replaced by Hindi. In addition, the Assam Government have clarified and amplified certain other points.

(c) The representatives from Cachar who met us have agreed to give a fair trial to the language formula that has emerged. The demands of the people of the Hill Districts were not specifically discussed recently.

Fire in Pure Jharia Colliery

Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Morarka:
 Shri Assar:
 Shri N. M. Deb:
 *453. Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Muhammed Elias:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Ramji Verma:
 Shri Rajendra Singh:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground fire in the Pure Jharia Colliery is endangering the safety of three adjoining mines;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken;

(c) whether it is also a fact that valuable machineries are lying underground and cannot be removed; and

(d) if so, what is the value of those machineries?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes; like many other underground fires in Jharia, there is an underground fire in the Pure Jharia Colliery, threatening the neighbouring Dohari collieries;

(b) The following steps have been taken:

(i) The Coal Board gave assistance to these collieries for blanketing the fire area, and for execution of protective works like cutting of isolation trenches by manual labour;

(ii) The Board arranged pumping of water from the neighbouring channel to quench the fire to the extent possible; and

(iii) the Board is arranging to have deep isolation trenches cut mechanically with earth cutting machinery.

(c) and (d). The Government have no information about any machinery lying underground.

Replicas of Archaeological Objects

*454. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Nek Ram Negi:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Museum has undertaken the