

Urdu as Second Language

2128. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN:

SHRI BASHIR AHMAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Urdu speaking population in U.P., Bihar and Delhi and their percentage to the total population;

(b) what is the district-wise Urdu speaking population in those two States and their percentage to the total population; and

(c) whether Urdu would be declared as second official language in those two States and also in Delhi Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-556/77.]

(c) At the Conference of Chief Ministers and Central Ministers held in August, 1961, certain criteria were evolved for recognition of minority languages for official purposes. In pursuance of these recommendations, a State is considered uni-lingual if about 70 per cent or more of its population speak one language and if there is a substantial minority constituting 30 per cent or more of the population of the State such a State is considered bi-lingual. At the district level where 60 per cent of the population speaks or uses a language other than the official language of the State, that language of the minority group is to be recognised as an official language in that district in addition to the State official language.

The policy of the Government is to accord Urdu due importance and encouragement.

Reduction in Expenditure on Official Functions

2129. SHRI DHARAMVIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce the pomp and show attendant on official functions, visits, arrival, departure and stay of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and high officials;

(b) the estimated reduction in official expenditure as a result of the steps taken or proposed to be taken; and

(c) whether State Governments would be advised to reduce similar expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) There are standing instructions regarding courtesies to be shown and accommodation to be provided to the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and other Central Ministers on their official/private visits to the States and Union Territories. The Government have also time and again laid emphasis on observance of austerity and avoidance of all forms of ostentation. The Prime Minister has himself set an example by using commercial flights for his air journeys. Instructions have also been issued to the effect that expenditure on official entertainments should be restricted to the barest minimum.

(b) It is not possible to assess the likely reduction in official expenditure at this stage.

(c) In such matters the State Governments take suitable steps on their own initiative.