

during 1979-80 (upto September, 1979).

Bihar Government's Decision on Urdu

4999. SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the situation arising out of Bihar Government's decision to declare Urdu as the second official language in some of the Maithili speaking districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether State Government had sought the advice of the Central Government in the matter;

(c) has the Union Government spell out its stand on the development of the regional languages and related issues; and

(d) if so, what and if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) According to the newspaper reports the Bihar Government has decided to declare Urdu as a second official languages in six districts of Bihar, namely, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Katihar, Purnea and Bhagalpur.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). The Policy of the Government of India is to promote all Indian languages and to provide facilities for their development. The Parliamentary Resolution on Language Policy, adopted in 1968, urges the Government to take effective steps for the development of modern Indian languages alongside Hindi "So that they grow rapidly in richness and become effective means of communicating modern knowledge."

There has been no change in the position. The Draft National Policy Resolution (1979) envisages that 'he

medium of instruction at all stages shall be the regional language except at primary stage where it will be the mother tongue. The Draft Policy has already been laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.

Teaching and Study of English Language and Literature

5000. SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) Government's policy on the teaching and study of English language and literature in the country as a whole;

(b) whether it is a fact that teaching and study of the English language is increasingly fading out in the Northern States; if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether Government propose promotion of English teaching in Northern Zone in view of the international importance of the language; if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) The Government of India's policy in respect of teaching of English is determined by the Three-Language Formula at the Secondary School level, envisaged under the National Policy on Education, 1968. This Formula provides for study of English as one of the languages both in Hindi and non-Hindi speaking States.

(b) With the medium of instruction in schools having been changed from English to Regional languages, the emphasis given to English earlier is no longer there.

(c) For the proper teaching of English in schools in the country, the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad provides training facilities, teaching material etc. To cater to the needs of Northern States, a regional centre has