

(iii) Arrangements have been made so that the Agricultural Aviation Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture collaborates effectively with the ground units to tackle such a threat, if it materialises.

(iv) Cooperation of the neighbouring countries which are also likely to be effected by such a threat is being sought with a view to effectively tackling the situation and keeping one another fully informed of the latest developments.

(v) The FAO has been requested to prevail upon the concerned Government to effectively tackle the problem of budding swarms of locust within their respective territories with a view to preventing their spread to other areas.

(vi) Indian Mission/Embassies located in these countries are also being contacted with a request to take up the matter with the Governments concerned for taking effective action and keeping us fully informed.

(vii) The information and monitoring system is being streamlined.

(viii) The concerned State Governments have been alerted.

Mother Tongue as School Medium

*560. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has suggested that the mother tongue should be school medium in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are examining the proposal;

(c) whether the Education Ministry have asked or sent this proposal to the State Governments;

(d) if so, what are their reaction; and

(e) what is the reaction of the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAPCHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (e). The Prime Minister, during the course of discussion with the delegates to the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Indian Universities, held at Rajkot in January, 1978 wanted the process of adopting mother tongue as a medium of instruction to be completed in five years. At the end of the Conference the Vice-Chancellors, *inter alia*, recommended that the process of adopting Hindi

or regional languages as medium of instruction at the under-graduate stage should be expedited.

Under Article 350A of the Constitution, it shall be the endeavour of every State and every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instructions in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. Otherwise, the regional language would be the mother tongue for the vast majority of students. By and large, at the school stage, both primary and secondary, the regional languages are already in use as media of education. This fact was also taken note of in the National Policy Resolution on Education of 1968. The three language formula evolved by the Central Advisory Board of Education and the Conference of Chief Ministers in 1961 also provided for mother tongue/regional language to be taught from Class I onwards.

Road Communication in Dandakaranya

*564. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the road communication in Dandakaranya Project and construct new roads from Malkangiri to Padia via Sikhpali, Padia to Motto via Gorakhpali, Padia to Kalimela, Kalimela to Motto via Manemkanda in Koraput district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT) : (a) and (b). Malkangiri to Sikhpali on Malkangiri Padia road has been developed by the Dandakaranya Project as black-topped road. Sikhpali to Padia has been improved to link road specifications and roads from Padia to Motto via Gorakhpali and from Kalimela to Motto via Manemkanda have also been constructed to link road specifications. Road from Padia to Kalimela has been developed as a water-bound macadam road with pucca bridges and culverts. All these roads are being maintained by the Dandakaranya Project.

As these roads have been laid and are being maintained, the question of any estimate of expenditure for construction thereon does not arise.