

(b) if so, whether any survey about the road-worthiness and suitability for their operation under DTC has been conducted; if so, when and with what results; and

(c) what specific steps are being taken to ensure proper maintenance of those buses?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRI-SHNAN): (a) to (c) All buses, including private buses associated with DTC, are allowed to ply only when they possess the fitness certificates issued by the Transport Authorities of the Union Territory. The operations of private buses under DTC are also monitored by the DTC independently or jointly with traffic police. One of the tasks of this checking machinery is to verify the conditions of the buses.

DTC will set up a special monitoring group to look into the fitness of all vehicles under DTC operation in Union Territory of Delhi.

Facilities to Languages included in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

1880. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the privileges or facilities for the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) what is the number of languages recognised as Regional languages in India alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) As per Constitution of India there are no special privileges or facilities

which accrue to the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, from time to time certain administrative benefits are being allowed to the various languages included in the Eighth Schedule, as per statement (See below).

(b) The Constitution of India does not provide a clear definition of 'Regional Languages'. Articles 345—347 empower the particular State to adopt any language in 'Use' in a particular State or a part thereto. The Article 351 simply identifies the languages in the Eighth Schedule as 'Languages of India'.

Statement

Administrative Benefits Accruing to the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule

(i) The Chief Minister's Conference (August, 1961) had recommended that at the secondary stage, facilities for instructions through the mother-tongue should be available ordinarily in the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule, and that facilities for recognition of a language as the additional official language where its speakers exceed 60% of the population, should ordinarily be given to the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule.

(ii) The Government Resolution on Languages (18th January, 1968) which was adopted by both the Houses of Parliament, provides that concerted efforts should be made for the full development of all the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule alongwith Hindi and that a programme for the coordinated development of these languages should be prepared and implemented by the Government of India in collaboration with the State Governments. Also, these

languages are to be considered for adoption as alternative media for all India and Higher Central Services Examinations.

(iii) Languages used in printing denominations on currency notes are from amongst those included in the Eighth Schedule.

(iv) Recognition by institutions like Sahitya Academy and National Book Trust is *ordinarily* restricted to the languages included in the Eighth Schedule. (However, Sahitya Academy has recognised other languages also, e.g. Maithili Manipuri, Dogri, Nepali etc. for the purposes of giving awards for excellence in literary writings published in those languages. National Book Trust have also an 'Adan Praden Scheme' for bringing out translations of outstanding literary works published in any of the Eighth Schedule languages in all other languages of the Eighth Schedule.)

(v) According to the Authorised Translation (Central Laws) Act, 1973, translation of Central Acts, Ordinances, Orders, etc. is to be done in the languages of the Eighth Schedule.

(vi) The Ministry of Human Resource Development confine financial assistance for the development of languages which are included in the Eighth Schedule.

(vii) Enlargement of Eighth Schedule will increase the scope for a larger number of non-citizens qualifying for citizenship in terms of clause (f) of Third Schedule to the Citizenship Act, 1955, which requires that an applicant for citizenship should have and adequate knowledge of one of the languages in the Eighth Schedule.

Nationalist Forces in J & K

1881. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of nationalist forces in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of locations of these forces, district-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to ensure their protection in the wake of terrorist activities taking place in the State at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (e) Due to fear psychosis, the nationalist forces in Kashmir Valley are at present dormant. The Government are taking all possible steps to contain and isolate the terrorists.

Fax Machines

1882. SHRI KAMAL MORAR-KA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that FAX machines are now a most common and efficient tool for communications;

(b) what steps are being taken to make the availability of FAX machines easier and speedier to the consumer; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit imports till such time that manufacture of FAX machines is undertaken in adequate number?