

(a) whether it is a fact that at the Conference of the Vice-Chancellors of Universities held in New Delhi in September, 1967, it was decided that before implementing the programme of change over from English to regional languages, the universities would be consulted;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to obtain the opinion of the universities in this regard?

(c) what is the reaction of the different State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) No, Sir. But they endorsed my statement that "the programme of changeover to regional languages as media of education will have to vary from university to university, from subject to subject, and even from institution to institution in each university. The criteria in each case should be that the changeover helps, at every stage, to raise standards."

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Governments have unanimously supported the proposed change-over to regional languages as media at the university stage.

STRIKE NOTICES BY I.A.C. STAFF

*439. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the preventive steps under Government's consideration to arrest the frequent strike notices given by the Indian Airlines Corporation staff; and

(b) whether any such notice has recently been given by the staff of this Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Government have issued a circular to all the Unions/Associations in the Corporation warning them that severe notice would be taken in future of illegal strikes, regardless of the merits of the demands in support of which such strikes are organised. Their attention has been drawn to the penal action to which they would be liable under the Industrial Disputes Act.

(b) No, Sir.

UNION TERRITORY OF NEFA AND ADJOINING AREAS

*440. SHRI P. C. MITRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have come to any final decision on the proposal for the formation of a Union Territory of the areas comprising NEFA and certain adjoining areas to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : There is no proposal to constitute the NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY and its adjoining areas into a Union Territory.

RESEARCH EXPENDITURE ON COAL AND OIL

♦441. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state ;

(a) the amount spent by Government on research organisations dealing with coal and oil for research and development programmes during the last five years;

(b) the ratio of research expenditure to the value of oil and coal production; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for intensive research into new uses of coal and oil chemicals and also to secure association of private producers and companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has spent about Rs. 660.21 lakhs on coal and petroleum research during 1962-1967.

(b) For coal, a tentative estimate of the expenditure on research is about 0.41 per cent of the total value of coal produced. For oil, no precise data are readily available.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

1. The research Laboratories of CSIR at Jealgora, Hyderabad and Jorhat have carried out/are carrying out the following major research projects on coal :