

HINDI AS INDIA'S STATE LANGUAGE

Decision By Congress Assembly Party

ENGLISH TO BE REPLACED IN 15 YEARS

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, August 11.

HINDI in the Devanagari script will be the State language under the new Constitution, according to a decision taken by the Congress Assembly Party this evening.

It has further been agreed that during the transition period which may range between 10 to 15 years, English will continue to be Free India's official language, although it has been stipulated that efforts should be made from now on to replace it gradually stage by stage.

In preparing the draft Articles for inclusion in the new Constitution, the Drafting Committee will be assisted by some eminent members of the Constituent Assembly representing different schools of thought.

Among these experts are Mr. Purshottamdas Tandon, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Rajkumari Amri Kaur and Mr. K. Santhanam.

This combined committee will suggest that the Hindi which will become the State language shall be broad-based and inclusive, reflecting all cultural usages by which it has been enriched over a long period of years. It is also expected to determine the method and manner in which Hindi as State language shall be introduced in different facets of national administration.

Pandit Nehru, Mr. Purshottamdas Tandon and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar took a prominent part in today's discussions. Pandit Nehru is believed to have emphasised that the national language, to become popular, should not be an imposed one and that it should be of the type commonly spoken and understood.

The relevant provisions in the Draft Constitution, with their fresh amendments and Articles, are expected to be taken for consideration in the Constituent Assembly on August 21.

With the hurdles of controversies over citizenship and language almost crossed over, lobby circles expect more speedy disposal of about 60 Articles still to be passed by the Assembly.