

THE MINISTER OF STATESW
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a)
and (b) The Government's* attention has
been drawn to a ^{ConVCTi;omhe^} on 28th July,
1934, in New York by some Khalistani
protagonists. No U» Senator or
Congressman participated in the Convention.
An ex-Congress- man, James Corman,
participated ³ⁿ -the Convention. A letter,
which is in the nature of greetings, addressed
by Mario M. Muomo, Governor of the
State of New York, was read out at the
Convention by his Assistant for Ethnic
Affairs;

(c) The matter has been taken up
with the Governor of New York by
our Consul General in New York and
our Ambassador in Washington has
also taken up the matter with the US
State Department.

Joint Celebration of various Festivals of Different Communities

2754. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will
the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose
to initiate any action for joint cele-
bration of various festivals of diffe-
rent communities to inculcate the
spirit of national integration in the
people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):
(a) and (b) In its meeting held in
1963 the National Integration Council
had endorsed the recommendation of
the Committee on Communal Aspects,
that Citizens Committees may be
constituted at the State, District and
Thana level to promote inter-alia
Joint participation by all communities
in the festivals. This recommenda-
tion was brought to the notice of
State Governments and other autho-
rities.

Visit by a Minister of Cabinet rank of West Bengal Government to the USSR

2755. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-
SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a
Minister of Cabinet rank in the West
Bengal Government recently visited
the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of
the visit, the amount of foreign ex-
change incurred on the visit and the
manner in which it was met;

(c) the names and status of the
Soviet dignitaries with whom the
visiting Minister had discussions and
what were the subjects discussed; and

(d) whether necessary permission
was obtained from the Government of
India for the said purpose, if not the
reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a)
Yes, Sir. Professor Sambhu Ghose,
the West Bengal Minister for Higher
Education, visited the Soviet Union
from the 14th July to the 11th August,
1984.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to
have medical consultations in respect
of an ailment from which Prof. Ghose
was suffering. The Government of
West Bengal had given an official
sanction to cover the visit to the
Soviet Union. The Embassy of India,
Moscow, incurred an expenditure of
Rs. 68,956.61 in foreign exchange on
behalf of the West Bengal Govern-
ment in this regard. This excludes
expenditure of Rs. 40,132/- towards
the air passage incurred by the State
following Soviet dignitaries;
Government.

(c) During his stay in Moscow
Prof. Ghose had discussions with the

Mr. N. S. Egorov, Deputy Minister
of Higher Education; Prof. V. I.
Tropin, Vice-Rector, Moscow State