

and employees and other expert organisations connected with the field of Agricultural Labour. Other details regarding this Committee are being finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Visit of Shah of Iran to China

483. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shah of Iran visited China recently; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

#### Large scale rioting and looting in Malagasy

484. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN;  
SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN  
MANISHANKAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was large scale rioting and Indians were looted in Malagasy in the last week of May this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the loss of life and property suffered by the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Student demonstrations in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar, on 29th and 30th May turned violent which were joined by disgruntled unemployed Malagasy nationals and anti-social elements. There was wide-spread damage to property and some loss of life. Fortunately no Indian was killed. However shops belonging to persons of Indian origin including those of 8 Indian nationals were ransacked and looted. According to a quick estimate made by our Mission the total value of loss of property belonging to Indian nationals could well exceed US \$ 4 million. Our Ambassador in Antananarivo has taken up the matter with the Malagasy authorities seeking prevention of such incidents and to ensure protection of life and property of Indian expatriates. While expressing regret over the incidents, the Malagasy authorities have assured that they will do their best to ensure security of persons of Indian origin and safety of their property.

#### Talks with the Government of Austria on the formation of Indian Ocean into a Zone of Peace

485. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Austria, he held discussions with the foreign Minister of Austria on the question of formation of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.