

Agreement have been discussed and Agreements have been signed. Particularly, since September, 1974, Agreements have been signed for the resumption of Postal Telecommunication links, travel and on trade. Talks are continuing on Civil Aviation and other matters.

(b) and (c) No precise date has yet been fixed for the meetings to be held in coming months.

Death of an Indian employee working at Chatra Canal Project

1075. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI JAGBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian national employed at the Indian aided Chatra Canal Projects was killed by two Nepalese policemen; and

(b) whether any compensation has been asked for from the Government of Nepal; and if so, what is the reaction of that Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Our Embassy in Nepal has asked the Nepalese Government for Compensation. Meanwhile, the policemen concerned have been arrested.

Payment of compensation of peasants in Punjab

1076. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had agreed to meet losses of the peasants in border areas of Punjab during the 1971 war, where crops were lost or next crops could not be sown for reasons of defence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 50 per cent of the losses have been paid so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite estimates of total losses having been as-

sessed and forwarded by the civilian authorities of the border districts to the Defence authorities concerned more than 1½ year ago, the Defence authorities have not cleared the papers and the peasants remained deprived of the balances of payments due to them; and

(d) if so, by when these cases will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. A procedure has been approved by the Ministry of Defence for *ex-gratia* payment to the peasants for the losses incurred by them on account of the damage caused to standing crops by defensive preparations of the Army during the last Indo-Pakistan Conflict. This Scheme covers also losses incurred by them where they were prevented from sowing new crops due to their land being under military occupation.

(b) to (d) According to the procedure approved, claims for *ex-gratia* payment are required to be verified by the local civil authorities. So far 531, claims have been accepted by the Army authorities and sanctioned for payment. 300 claims are pending with them awaiting sanction. Most of these claims are expected to be sanctioned without much delay. A large number of claims, however, are pending with the local civil authorities for verification. In order to settle these claims as quickly as possible, they are being reviewed jointly by the officers of the Directorate of Military Lands and Cantonment and the local officers of the Government of Punjab.

Chaos in refugee camps

1077. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Standard of October, 18, 1974 under the caption 'DDA blamed for chaos in refugees camps';

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;