

(b) As a result of the situation created by the imposition in 1965 of embargoes by a number of western countries on the export of arms and ammunition and other vital defence stores to India, a special arrangement was made with two parties for the procurement of spares for a transport aircraft. The arrangement for the procurement of spares with these two parties lapsed on 31-1-1970. A review of the arrangement for the continuance of such an arrangement has been made recently and it is proposed not to renew the agreement with these two parties.

VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED DURING THE GANDHI CENTENARY

200. DR. SALGARAM :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which were electrified during the Gandhi Centenary Year; and

(b) the period by when Government expect to cover the whole of the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Against a target of one lakh villages to be electrified by the end of Gandhiji's Centenary Year i.e. by 2nd October, 1970, 84,222 villages have been electrified by 31st March, 1970 out of which 11,868 villages were electrified from 2nd October, 1969, to 31st March, 1970.

(b) The time by which the remaining villages would be electrified would depend on the funds available for rural electrification in the subsequent Plan periods.

Pong Dam

201. SHRI RAJUN ARORA :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress in the completion of Pong Dam has been held up; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and how Government propose to solve the difficulties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. (b) Does not arise.

पाकिस्तान में पंजा साहिब तथा गुरुद्वारों में जाने वाले भारतीय तीर्थयात्रियों की दुर्दशा

202. डा० भाई महावीर :

श्री लाल आडवाणी :

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

सरदार गुरुचरण सिंह टोहड़ा :

क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पंजा साहिब में बैसाखी का त्यौहार मनाने के पश्चात् बीटने वाले 1800 भारतीय तीर्थयात्रियों ने बताया है कि उन्हें केवल रात्रि में ही सफर करने के लिये बाध्य किया गया और पाकिस्तानी पुलिस सदैव उनका पीछा करती रही ;

(ख) क्या भारत स्थित धार्मिक स्थानों की यात्रा के लिये आने वाले पाकिस्तानियों के साथ भारत सरकार भी ऐसा ही व्यवहार करती है ;

(ग) क्या भारतीय तीर्थयात्रियों ने यह भी बताया है कि लाहौर में गुरुद्वारों की स्थिति सन्तोषजनक नहीं है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

PLIGHT OF INDIAN PILGRIMS TO PANJA SAHIB AND GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

202. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA : SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1800 Indian pilgrims, who came back from Panja Sahib after Celebrating Baisakhi festival there, have stated that they had

been compelled to travel only at night and the Pakistani Police had always been keeping surveillance over them;

(b) whether the same treatment is meted out to the Pakistanis coming to pilgrimage to religious places in India by the Government of India;

(c) whether the Indian pilgrims have also noted that the condition of Guru-dwaras in Lahore is not satisfactory; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in the matter?]

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) सामान्य एहतियाती उपाय बरते जाते हैं।

(ग) सरकार ने इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं।

(घ) तीर्थस्थानों की असंतोषजनक देखरेख का जब भी कोई मामला सरकार की जानकारी में आता है, वह उसे पाकिस्तान सरकार के साथ उठाती है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normal precautionary measures are taken.

(c) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(d) All cases of unsatisfactory maintenance of shrines are taken up with the Government of Pakistan whenever they come to the notice of the Government.]

LIFTING OF EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE AND TOBACCO

203. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand for lifting of export duty on jute and tobacco;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an apprehension of losing overseas markets in the presence of export duty on these items?

[[English translation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received from time to time for abolition of export duties on jute goods and tobacco. Export duties on certain types of jute manufactures have been abolished whereas in the other cases the duties have been considerably reduced. Government do not consider that the total abolition of export duties on jute manufactures at the present juncture will help in pushing up exports in view of current shortage of their production and high prices.

As regards tobacco, Government is not in favour of abolition of export duty as exports have not been affected due to the incidence of duty.

INCREASE IN COTTON PRICES

204. DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTO-PADHYAYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cotton are increasing;

(b) if so, what corrective measures Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the quality of the yarn supplied to the decentralised sector ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir, the prices of cotton, generally speaking, have been rising.

(b) Besides adjustments in credit and stock control, additional imports of cotton/ staple fibre have been and are being arranged.

(c) No complaints have been received about the quality of the yarn supplied to the decentralised sector.

भाखड़ा परियोजना से राजस्थान को बिजली की सप्लाई

205. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद भाबुर :

क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :