

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (GHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK.) : (a) ?nd (b) Government of India have been pressing Pakistan through diplomatic channels to open the over-land route for all goods in transit between India and Afghanistan, but without any success so far.

SALE OF LAND BY LESSEES AT AGRA CANTONMENT

♦405. SARDAR D. K. JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recently received any representations from the residents of Agra Cantonment alleging unauthorised sale of plots of land Nos. 158, 158A, 158B in the Cantonment area by the lessees;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have suffered a loss of heavy amount of money for not auctioning these plots; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter."

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Madam. Representations have however been received in respect of Bungalow No. 158 (Survey No. 281), Gwalior Road, situated in the Agra municipal area.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

PUBLIC MEN IN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

♦406. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether government have decided not to appoint public men to diplomatic posts; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF ENGINEERING WAGE BOARD BY H.A.L.

♦407. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Engineering Wage Board have been implemented by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in implementing the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Central Wage Board on Engineering Industries are still under consideration of Government of India. The Management of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have, however, started direct negotiations with the Employees' Unions in this regard.

OFFER OF DAILY ALLOWANCE TO CHIEF MINISTER OF ORISSA BY THE GOVERNMENT OF U.S.A.

*408. SARDARGURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa visited United States recently as a guest of U.S. Government;

(b) if so, whether the U.S. Government offered daily allowance to the Orissa Chief Minister during his stay in U.S.A.;

(c) whether the Government of India has lodged any protest with the U.S. Government for offering daily allowance to Chief Minister of an Indian State which is not in conformity with established practice; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Orissa and his son were invited to U.S.A. for one month on an invitation from the U.S. Department of State. While forwarding the invitation to the Ministry of External Affairs, the U.S. Embassy had indicated in their Note that the terms of invitation included domestic transportation within United States and an appropriate *per diem* allowance to cover their board and lodging.