

GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

317. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH
BRAR :SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH
TOHRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are considering a proposal to set up a commission to survey the condition of Gurdwaras left in Pakistan and to ensure permanent arrangements for proper maintenance of these gurdwaras ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) No, Madam.

(b) According to Indo-Pak Agreements on the subject, protection, maintenance and preservation of sanctity of these Gurdwaras is the responsibility of Pakistan Government.

OPENING OF WAGHA ROUTE BETWEEN
INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN318. SARDAR NARINDER SINGH
BRAR :SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH
TOHRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Afghanistan have desired that Wagha route should be opened for the transportation of fruit from Afghanistan to India ;

(b) whether any official request from the Government of Afghanistan has been received ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) The Governments of Afghanistan and India have been desirous that the traditional trade route between the two countries should remain open.

(b) It is upto the Government of Pakistan to open the route. There is, therefore, no question of any request being addressed to the Government of India.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS OF SOLDIERS
KILLED IN WAR319. SARDAR NARINDER SINGH
BRAR :SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH
TOHRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the opinion of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has been received for giving pension and other facilities to the widows of the soldiers killed in war ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government orders regarding grant of special family pensions to widows of Service personnel killed in action were issued in 1965. The Comptroller and Auditor General was requested to look into the deduction made by the Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions) in relation to the scholarships awarded by Government to children of certain widows for education in public schools. The Comptroller and Auditor General indicated that, on the face of it, the Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions) had acted correctly. Government, however, meanwhile issued a clarification to the effect of which was to restore in full the consolidated rates of special family pension to war widows.

RESERVATION OF PRODUCTION OF
COLOURED SAREES FOR HANDLOOMS320. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-
DEEN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN
TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to
state :

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on the production of coloured sarees by powerlooms and have reserved the same for handlooms ; and

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