

countries. The talks were exploratory in nature, and are likely to be continued further.

P. M.'s TOUR OF JAKARTA

668. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in her recent tour of Jakarta she suggested a broadbased grouping of nations to replace the existing ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and if so, what other nations are suggested to be included; and

(b) whether the Western countries will be admitted as associate nations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister suggested that regional economic cooperation in South East Asia had a greater potential of expansion through a broadbased grouping of nations with active United Nations participation. No specific views were put forward in regard to the membership or associate membership of such a group.

OPENING OF FIRE BY CHINESE TROOPS ON INDIAN SOLDIERS INSIDE INDIAN TERRITORY

669. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese troops recently opened fire on Indian soldiers in the Lipulekh area well inside the Indian territory ; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that of late there has been concentration of Chinese troops lately, in the middle sector and their activities all along the Indian and Nepali borders have increased ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) On 10th July, 1969, when an Indian patrol was proceeding towards Lipulekh Pass on the U.P.-Tibet border, the Chinese fired at our patrol from a direction east of the Pass, from their side of the international border. The Chinese fire was in effective and was not returned. There were no casualties. There was no

significant Chinese activity thereafter in the area.

While Chinese troops continue to remain in strength across our northern border, there is no indication that these troops have been recently augmented. A close watch continues to be kept in the interests of safeguarding our territorial integrity.

670. [Transferred to the 5M August, 1969.]

PURCHASE OF STEEL BY CUBA

671. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Cuba have offered to purchase large quantities of steel from India ;

(b) if so, what are the particular items of steel they have offered to purchase and in what quantities ;

(c) what is the total amount involved ; and

(d) the stage at which the negotiations are at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (d) Some enquiries are known to have been received from Cuba by some of Indian manufacturers and exporters of steel fabrications. Owing to tight supply situation and their prior commitments, it has not been possible for those who have received these enquiries to respond to them positively.

672.[Transferred to the 6th August, 1969].

MANUFACTURE OF RADIO SETS

673. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names, along with the licensed and installed capacities, of undertakings licensed in the organised sector to manufacture radio sets ;

(b) the production of radio sets in the organised sector, broken down into valve sets and transistor sets, during the years 1965 to January—May, 1969 year-wise ; and