

sovereignty and national honour, and no interference in each other's internal affairs.

#### PROPERTIES LEFT BEHIND OF INDIAN AND PAKISTANI NATIONALS

848. SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the value of properties left by Indian nationals in Pakistan and held by the Custodian of Enemy Properties, Pakistan, as well as the value of properties left by the Pakistani nationals in India and lying with the Custodian of Enemy Properties, India;

(b) what progress has been made in terms of Tashkent Declaration to have the properties released by the respective Governments;

(c) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn, to the fact that the Government of Pakistan has been selling away the left behind properties of Indian nationals; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

#### THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) The value of properties left by Indian nationals in Pakistan, on the basis of claims registered by them with the Custodian of Enemy Properties, India as on 31 March 1967, is approximately Rs. 101.26 crores. The value of properties left by Pakistani nationals in India and lying with the Custodian of Enemy Properties, India, is approximately Rs. 27.15 crores.

(b) Despite numerous requests made by the Government of India to the Government of Pakistan to discuss the question of restoration of properties and assets seized by the two Governments in connection with the 1965 conflict, in terms of Article VIII of the Tashkent Declaration, there has been no constructive response from the Government of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) As soon as the Government came to know of the intended sale of Indian properties by Pakistan, the Government lodged a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan against their arbitrary and illegal act.

#### CULTURAL ATTACHES IN INDIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD

849. SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of cultural attaches in Indian embassies abroad and the names of the countries to which they are assigned; and

(b) what are the qualifications of such cultural attaches and how many of them have knowledge of Sanskrit and Indian history ?

#### THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Cultural activities in all our Missions, except the one in Nepal, are generally treated as part of the activities of the Information/Public Relations Officers in those missions. In these activities, other officers also take part whenever necessary or possible. In Missions where there are no Press Attaches, this work is done by an officer specifically assigned for the purpose by the Head of the Missions.

It is only in our Mission in Kathmandu that we have, in view of the close cultural links between the two countries, appointed since 1961, a cultural Attache specifically to handle cultural work.

A knowledge of Hindi, an easy familiarity with Indian History and a good grasp of the fundamentals of Indian civilisation and of Indian achievement in the cultural field are regarded as essential qualifications for this post.

The present incumbent, Dr. Indu Shekhar, holds *inter alia*, an M.A. degree in Sanskrit, an M.A. degree in Hindi and an M. Litt. degree in Ancient Indian Studies.

#### WEDDING RECEPTION IN FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA

850. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that permission was granted for holding a wedding reception after the marriage of Nawab of Pataudi with film star Sharmila Tagore in Fort William, Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether there are any precedents for permitting defence establishments to be used for such purposes;