

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Five tours were undertaken.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The prescribed charges on account of the air and road journeys were paid into Government account on behalf of the Prime Minister.

DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO ARAB LEAGUE

*597. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 156 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1968 and state:

(a) whether the Arab League maintains Offices as diplomatic missions in several countries including U.S.A., Switzerland, Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, U.K., Italy, Canada, Argentina, France and Japan;

(b) whether it is a fact that no other country except India has given to the Arab League a diplomatic status; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this favoured treatment given to the Arab League by the Government of India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) As already stated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 156 the Arab League maintains offices in several countries, including the U.S.A., Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, the U.K., Italy, Canada, Argentina, France and Japan. The Government has no information whether these offices have diplomatic status.

(b) The privileges and immunities accorded to the representative of the Arab League are similar to those accorded to the officials of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies. India has thus *not* given diplomatic status to the Arab League office.

(c) Does not arise.

ELECTRONIC FACTORY IN MADRAS

*598. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of India received any request from Government of Madras to start a factory in that state for the manufacture of electronic equipment

involving a capital outlay of Rs. 10 crores; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) No application, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, has been received from the Madras Government for starting a factory in that State for the manufacture of electronic equipment.

Madras Government as well as a few other State Governments have, however, approached the Ministry of Defence for locating in their State the second unit of Bharat Electronics.

t SOURCE OF ARMS FOR NAGAS

*374. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 18th June, 1968, to the effect that the largest source of supply of arms for the hostile Nagas has been India and these Nagas buy them from Indian traders directly from the Indian soldiers;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry?

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

(b) and (c) The matter has been enquired into. There is no truth in these allegations.

A.I.R. PERSONNEL FOR RADIO Moscow

*599. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA GOPALAN): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that original circular of 1966 regarding All India Radio personnel serving or selected to serve at Radio Moscow in various Indian

(Transferred from the 7th August, 1968.

languages, has recently been replaced by a Memo circulated by the Administrative officer; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a change?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Now that staff artistes have been given the advantage of long term contracts upto the age of 55 years, a revision of the decision with regard to service under foreign broadcasting organisations was considered advisable.

'RUPEE CADRE' EMPLOYEES OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON

*600. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:
SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH
BRAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Rupee Cadre" employees working in the Indian High Commission in London have been agitating since long for securing better working conditions and that they have threatened to go on strike;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of these employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Locally recruited clerical staff on Rupee scales of pay and allowances have made representation that their salaries and allowances are inadequate.

(c) Government considered the representations and as an interim measure, increased the cost of living allowance with retrospective effect from 1-4-1968. The question of further rationalisation of the terms and conditions of their service is receiving attention.

CHINESE ARMY ON NORTHERN BORDER

*601. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information about the mobilization of Chinese army in league with Pakistan on our Northern borders; and

tb) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Chinese troops continue to remain in strength across our northern borders. No significant change in this position has been noticed of late. Pakistan's close association with China and developments arising therefrom having a bearing on our security are closely watched for taking suitable measures to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON

*602. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:
SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : SHRI K.
DAMODARAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total strength of the staff working in the Indian High Commissioner's Office in London;

(b) how many of them are non-Indians;

(c) whether it is a fact that the non-Indian members of the staff have demanded higher salaries; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) The total strength of the High Commission of India London as on 1-8-1968 was 767.

(b) 236.

(c) and (d) All the locally recruited clerical staff have made representation, that their salaries and allowances are inadequate. Government considered the representations and, as an interim measure, increased the cost of living allowances with retrospective effect from 1-4-1968. The question of further rationalisation of the term and conditions of their services is receiving attention.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

*603. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON: SHRI M.R.
VENKATARAMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary delegation from South Vietnam which