

(b) While the Government would like peaceful conditions to continue in Nagaland they cannot countenance violations of normal laws by Underground Nagas or anyone else; the State Government is taking such action to deal with these violations as is considered appropriate. During the past few months many wrong doers have been arrested and sent up for prosecution. Similarly weapons and ammunition have been confiscated by the Police force and the Security Forces.]

ISSUE OF PASSPORTS TO PERSONS ACCOMPANYING CONGRESS PRESIDENT

1170. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and status of the persons who were issued passport to accompany the Congress President during his tour to Japan in July, 1968;

(b) on whose invitation they visited Japan; and

(c) whether formal written invitation was issued to them through the Ministry of External Affairs?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, General Secretary of the Indian National Congress and Shri H. G. Guttal, Personal Secretary to the Congress President, accompanied the Congress President during his tour to Japan in July 1968.

They were issued ordinary International Passports by the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi for their visit to Japan.

(b) At the invitation of the Indo-Japanese Association.

(c) No, Sir. The Indo-Japanese Association being a non-official organisation and the Congress President having no official position in the Government the invitation was extended direct and not through the Ministry of External Affairs.

A.I.R.'s CHINESE PROGRAMME

1171. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Radio beams its programme in Chinese towards the Far-East; and

(b) if so, in which of the Chinese languages it is beamed?

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

(b) Cantonese and Kuoyu.

ASIA REGIONAL ORGANISATION

1172. SHRI A.D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that Mr. Thant Konam the foreign Minister of Thailand is reported to have stated in Tokyo on May, 17, 1968 that India should actively participate in a broader all-Asia regional organisation; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Government of India have seen Press reports to that effect. The statement was made in an interview to the P.T.I. representative.

(b) As the House is aware, while seeking to strengthen her bilateral relations, the Government of India have indicated their willingness to cooperate in a broad based framework for regional economic cooperation in South East Asia. If any initiative matures towards this end, the Government of India would respond in the light of this policy.

SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S VIEWS ON GILGIT-SINKIANG ROAD

1173. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by Sheikh Abdullah at a Press Conference on May 15 last to the effect that he does not object to the construction of a road linking Gilgit with Sinkiang through occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the reactions of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) There have been different reports as to what Sheikh Abdullah said regarding the construction of the Gilgit-Sinkiang road. He is reported to have said that it was a route for trade and communications, that Pakistan was in *de-facto* occupation of the area and that her agreement with China was provisional; so the construction of the road was not