

languages, has recently been replaced by a Memo circulated by the Administrative officer; and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

visited the country in July, 1968 met the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussion held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

HIPPIES ON INDO-NEPAL BORDER

*604. SHRI P. C. MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hippies are allowed by the Government of India to cross the border of Nepal and come to India without proper documents such as, passport, visa, etc.;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to criticism in Patna press about misuse of this privilege by the Hippies who are not only drugs addicts but who also indulge in smuggling of contraband drugs from Nepal into India;

(c) whether the Government of Nepal have sent any note to the Government of India seeking their cooperation to drive out the Hippies from the Indo-Nepal border areas; and

(d) if so, what has been the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRISURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No foreigner other than a citizen of Nepal, Bhutan or Sikkim is permitted to cross the Nepalese border to enter India without proper documents such as passports, visas, etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

INDIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER AT ZANZIBAR

*605. DR. B. N. ANTANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of resident Deputy High Commissioner at Zanzibar has been made; and

(b) whether the Government of India has been able to ascertain the financial loss suffered by the Indians in Zanzibar due to confiscation of their immovable properties ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir. In this connection attention is invited to the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 90 on the 15th February, 1968.

(b) Government have no information regarding the value of the property confiscated, efforts are being made to ascertain the same.

SENIORITY OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES/TRIBES, PAID FROM DEFENCE ESTIMATES

*606. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 303 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th June, 1962, by the Minister of Home Affairs and state :

(a) whether Government Memorandum No. 9/45/60-Estt.(D) dated the 20th April, 1961 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, regulating seniority of Scheduled Castes' and Scheduled Tribes' candidates, has been implemented in respect of civilian employees paid from Defence Estimates;

(b) if so, the number of persons who were given the benefits of the said Memorandum; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Ministry of Home Affairs Memorandum dated 20th April, 1961 referred to herein has been implemented in respect of civilian employees of the Armed Forces Headquarters (including Inter Services Organisations) and in respect of Class I and Class II employees in the lower formations under this Ministry.

(b) The number of persons who were given the benefits in the Armed Forces Headquarters (including Inter Services Organisations) is 336. Information regarding the number of Class I and Class II employees in the lower formations who were given the benefits is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.