

approved by Government. The implementation of this scheme is, however, held up due to non-realisation of expectations about availability of TV sets. It will be possible to provide TV sets to Members of Parliament in three months.

MR. DE'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

*528. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Socialist Party Leader, Mr. De, who recently crossed over to India from East Pakistan appraised the Prime Minister with the problems of minorities in East Pakistan ;

(b) if so, what are the broad features of the problems being faced by the minorities in East Pakistan;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to hold discussions with Pakistan on this issue ?

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

(b) Minorities in East Pakistan face a variety of problems which give them a feeling of insecurity. This is due to the frequent seizure of property without any legal justification, the absence of employment opportunities, the lack of cultural and religious freedom, the failure of the police to protect their lives and property, the denial of a rightful place in community life as well as the fear of forcible Conversion.

(c) The Government are aware of the disabilities of the minorities and have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Pakistan Government to the plight of the minorities there, reminding them of their obligations under the Nehru-Liaquat Pact of 1950, which requires them to guarantee security, full freedom and equality of rights to their minorities.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

LANDING OF ZOND 6 IN INDIAN OCEAN

*530. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the Soviet Union had informed the Government of India in advance about the landing of the Space-ships Zond 5 and Zond 6?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :
No, Sir.

RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS BROADCAST ABOUT INDIAN COOPERATIVE UNION

*531 SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent broadcast through Radio Peace and Progress stating that the Indian Cooperative Union is financed by CIA funds to scuttle the genuine co-operative movement in this country;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the same broadcast it is stated that a certain peculiar seed is being sent to this country to sabotage food production; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

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

(c) Inquiries are being made about the correctness of the statements contained in the broadcast.

FUEL WOOD PROCURED BY DGBR "DEEPAK PROJECT"

*532. SHRI C. L. VARMA:

SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG:

DR. SALIG RAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Border Roads "Deepak Project" purchased some fuel wood for tarring road from Kingal to Basantpur;

(b) if so, the quantity of wood purchased and the party from whom the purchase was made;

(c) whether it is a fact that some fuel wood was removed unauthorisedly from