

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

the Himachal Pradesh Government Forest and that the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has claimed the cost from 'Deepak Project', and (d) if so, what is the amount of the claim?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement containing the reply is placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha

STATEMENT

Project Deepak purchased some "fuel wood" in connection with works on the road from Kingal to Basantpur. According to available information about 1100 metric tons of firewood were purchased from the following local suppliers :

- (i) Shri K. R. Sharma, D
- (ii) Shri Mri Mani, J of Baragaon.
- (iii) Shri Gyan Singh of Kingal. (iv) Shri Mehar Chand of Basantpur.

Himachal Pradesh Forest authorities were approached by the Project to mark trees falling on the road alignment and indicate disposal before the commencement of work. Out of 159 trees marked by the Forest Department, 40 trees were affected in the course of blasting. A claim amounting to Rs. 3,832.66 was however received from District Forest Officer Kotgarh in respect of 'unauthorised' felling of trees. This claim was refuted by the unit concerned in May 1968. No reference regarding the claim has been received from the Forest authorities thereafter.

FUTURE OF INDIANS IN KENYA

*533. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 20th November, 1968 to the effect that Indians in Kenya have no future in that country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India to safeguard the interests of those Indians?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has seen a report which suggests that the people of Indian origin might have to leave Kenya within the next five to ten years. I

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I The people of Indian origin in Kenya are either Kenyan citizens or citizens of U.K. or of India. In view of the general trend in Kenya to gradually Africanise trade and the services, it is inevitable that persons other than Kenyan Nationals will be affected. So far as U. K. citizens of Indian origin in Kenya are concerned, arrangements have already been made between the Governments of India and the United Kingdom in regard to the resettlement of those who may be compelled to leave Kenya and who may wish to come to India.

INDIAN FLAGS AS WINDOW CURTAINS IN LONDON

*534. SHRI J. S. TILAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian National Flags were recently found being used as window curtains in some of the houses in London;

(b) whether, in spite of the fact that the attention of the Indian High Commissioner was drawn to this by Indian Citizens there, nothing has so far been done in this matter; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such abuse of our National Flag?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) According to available information: this appears to be incorrect.

(b) The attention of the High Commission was drawn to this matter and appropriate enquiries were made.

(c) Does not arise.

जम्मू के निकट पाकिस्तानी ब्रिगेड

*535. श्री दत्तोपल्ल ठेंगड़ी : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान ने जम्मू के निकट पाक अधिकृत ग्राम निकलाई में एक सैनिक ब्रिगेड का मुख्यालय स्थापित किया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तानी चौकियों पर बहुत बड़ी संख्या में चीनी सैनिक भी देखे गये हैं; और