

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I have said in reply to part (b) that Government of India have so far had no assurance from the Government of Pakistan. (*Interruption*) We are talking to them, we have taken up the matter. The only point is that they say that they have given the names of some Pakistani nationals who are undergoing terms of sentence here, but unfortunately we cannot agree to the exchange because those names which have been given are the names of persons who have still their term to go, may be six months or eight months. They have still to complete their term.

FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES

*94. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI R.

P. SINHA : SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some foreign news agencies are functioning in this country which supply material and also subsidise the Indian news agencies in the form of remuneration or compensation for the work done;

(b) if so, what are the details of such news agencies together with the number of Indians working in them;

(c) the names of the Indian news agencies which have connections with them;

(d) whether Government held any enquiry into such connections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) and (c) Universal Press Service, Madras, according to information furnished by it, receives payment for translating and distribution to Indian newspapers material received from DAJD. (Dienst Aus Deutschland) which is stated to be a private publicity organisation in Hamburg, West Germany. The International Clipping Service, Bombay, also

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

has an annual contract with D.A.D. for translating and distributing material supplied by the latter. The Tarun Press, Calcutta, also distributes material from i another West German organisation, Tarentel International Press of Berlin. No information is available regarding the payment, if any, received by Tarun Press.

(b) Universal Press Service, International Clipping Service and Tarun Press are all Indian Organisations but information is not available regarding the number of persons working in them.

(d) and (e) Enquiries are being¹ made.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the Government if the Government is aware that besides the Universal Press Service there is the Near and Far East News, NAFEN, there is Free News and Feature Service, there is Forum World Feature? These Services are also functioning, and NAFEN is a subsidiary of a British concern which is in England and which has taken over after the Anglo-Arab News Service. Does not Government consider applying similar restrictions on Foreign Feature Agencies similar to those that are applied to Foreign News Agencies that they cannot function here directly because they affect not only the independence of news but views also?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I think my hon. friend seems to be a little misinformed. India News and Feature Alliance has an agreement with North American Newspaper Alliance, NANA, New York, under which we buy their material for syndication in India. NANA is one of the top news and feature syndicates in the U.S.A. We have no arrangement with any foreign publicity organisation, governmental or private, for the sale and free distribution in India of press or publicity material. The arrangement with NANA is purely commercial and the Reserve Bank of India has sanctioned the required exchange permit for dollar remittance. We also send occasional pieces on India to various foreign newspapers on a pay-as-used basis.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I have notasked about Indian News and Feature Alliance. I had asked a specific ques-; tion on NAFEN, Near and Far East

News, and also about Free News and Feature Service which is blatantly having propaganda on behalf of Taiwan and Isreal, and the Free World Feature which operates from outside India, which was an offshoot of Congress for Cultural Freedom. This NAFEN is a subsidiary of NAFEN in England and they are trying to use this for their pro-poganda purposes. When Reuter and A.P. are not allowed to be directly operated in India—they operate through P.T.I, and U.N.I., is it a correct thing to allow the Foreign Feature Agencies to function directly here because they send free material to the newspapers or subsidised material—and they are having a loss of Rs. 45,000 per month or Rs. 5 lakhs a year. Is it correct, is it good, and will not the Government consider that there should be restrictions which they put on Reuter and A.P. to function directly ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Could you not take a lesser time in putting a question? You have taken five minutes. I have given a ruling which I am going to stick to. Ten minutes for important questions and five minutes for other questions. It does not matter what happens.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : My hon. friend should remember that the question is about whether Government are aware that some foreign news agencies are functioning. Therefore, the answer is also restricted to the news agencies. If he wants any information about feature agencies, he may kindly put a separate question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : During the last session, I think in August, the Minister gave an assurance to this House that he will refer the activities of the Universal Press Service, Tarun Press, etc., which are operating for West German press agencies and making a lot of money, to the C.B.I. May I know if he has made a reference to the C.B.I. and, if so, has he received any report on the enquiry conducted by the C.B.I.?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I may give an assurance that it has been referred to the Home Ministry.

SHRI A. D. MANI : I would like to point out to the Minister that NAFEN is not a feature agency but a news agency. I myself have read NAFEN material. We subscribe to NAFEN

material, and whatever my friend, Mr. Krishan Kant, may say, it is a good service. May I ask the Minister whether it is not a fact that NAFEN service is subscribed to by a large number. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not prevent a Member from stating his views. Though it may not be palatable to everyone of us, he is a Member and he has the privilege of stating his point of view.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: He cannot give his point of view while putting a question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the i Minister whether it is not a fact that j the NAFEN News Service is being operated on commercial lines and is j subscribed to by a large number of ' newspapers in India? Secondly, may I ask him whether under the law, as the fundamental rights stand at present, he can prevent any news service from operating in collaboration with any I other agency abroad because it is a question of fundamental rights ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I am sorry. According to the papers that I have in my possession, it was not here. I have the list of news services, and I am prepared to accept the statement of my friend that it may be a news service. I will make enquiries.

(Some hon. Members stood up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten minutes are over. Mr. Khaitan.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have only a submission to make. We are all ageing. . .

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : It is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 95. Mr. Khaitan.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Question No. 116 is on a similar subject. With your permission it may also be...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The tanks question is coming up. There is a Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Calling Attention Notice on a similar question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They have a right to put it in addition to the Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I only wish that that question should not be asked here. You mean, there is a Calling Attention Notice?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Calling Attention Notice is different. It refers to Turkey. This refers to Italy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All NATO countries come in. . .

U.S. TANKS TO PAKISTAN

*95. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

WUI the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 94 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have got any further information about the supply of American tanks to Pakistan after July, 1968 and

(b) If, so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) Further enquiries through diplomatic channel reveal that no agreement has yet been signed between Italy and Pakistan for the supply of Patton tanks to Pakistan. Our views on such arms supply to Pakistan have been made clear to all the friendly countries concerned, and were recently conveyed among others, to the Italian Ambassador in India.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Sir, about the deal in regard to arms with Pakistan, we understand from newspapers that Turkey has been fixed as the third country. Now we understand that Turkey denied the deal itself. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Is there any other country or

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Thillai Villalan.

are there any other countries on the same line as Turkey which are helping Pakistan in this deal ? If so, what are the steps taken by this Government to stop this since we all know that prevention is better than cure?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, in the last few months a number of other countries like Belgium, Italy, even West Germany and Turkey. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why 'even'?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Well, I delete it. Cut it out. I agree—West Germany and Turkey. These were the four countries that were mentioned in this and we pursued this matter with them as well as with Washington, and we impressed upon them the undesirability of any such induction of arms into this region which is a region of tension or, which can cause conflict.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमान्, क्या मंत्री ने यह बताने का कष्ट करेगा कि बहुत दिनों से पाकिस्तान इधर उधर से टैंक लेने का यत्न कर रहा है तो क्या आपके पास कोई निश्चित ऐसा सोर्स है जिसके द्वारा आप को यह मालूम पड़ा कि नये किस्म के टैंक पाकिस्तान दुनिया के कौन कौन से देशों से खरीदने का सौदा कर रहा है और कौन कौन से देशों से टैंक खरीद चुका है ।

श्री बी० झार० भगत : यह कोशिश तो हम हमेशा जारी रखते हैं । जैसे इन चार देशों से पाकिस्तान द्वारा एम 47 टैंक लेने की खबरें आती हैं, उनसे हमने बातचीत की और अभी जो आखिरी रिपोर्ट टर्की की है उसको लेकर यह निश्चित रूप से नहीं कहा जा सकता कि पाकिस्तान ने टैंक देने का एग्रीमेन्ट साइन हो गया है ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now, Sir, I concede that this Government does not want the US tanks to come to Pakistan. It is not in dispute. But let us see how we should tackle it. Now, Sir, according to the present arrangements, is the Government aware . . .