

INDIA PRESS AGENCY

408. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Press Agency (IPA) is recognized by the Union Government as a national news and feature syndicate;

(b) whether this agency is run by the Communist Party of India;

(c) what proportion of the revenue of this organisation came from Indian newspaper sources and foreign and non-news sources during the last five years; and

(d) whether this agency is financed by the TASS and APN of the USSR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir, for purposes of accreditation of correspondents by the Press Information Bureau.

(b) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Information available indicates that the Agency's revenue from the Indian newspapers during the year 1965-66 is Rs. 59,604. The Agency sells its service to three foreign News Agencies, namely, CETEKA (Czechoslovak News Agency), Polish Press Agency and TASS of USSR.

PERMANENT STAY FOR KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

409. SHRI BRAHMANAND PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of his sacrifice for the cause of Indian freedom and his old age there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ask Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan to spend the rest of his life peacefully in India; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has already indicated and we would like to repeat that we have the highest respect, the greatest regard and affection for Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. He was amongst the most outstanding leaders who won freedom for us and he would be most welcome to live in India. An invitation was extended to him in January 1965 to come to India at any time convenient to him. He has indicated that he will visit India at a suitable opportunity.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUND BY PAKISTAN ON DEEPAIPUR CANAL

410. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI:

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has constructed a seven-mile-long bund on the eastern side of Deepalpur canal which takes off from Hus-sainiwala and runs into Pakistan territory; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government have come across reports of the construction of a high embankment along with Deepalpur canal, well within Pakistan territory. The purpose of this construction is not known.

भारतीय संकेतों का बीच में पकड़ा जाना

411. श्री राम सहाय : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि

(क) क्या यह पाया गया है कि अमरीकी हवाई अड्डों का, जिन्हें पाकिस्तान ने अपने