

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

(b) Unless the distributors and the producers come to some sort of an agreement among themselves, the screening of films in Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is likely to be adversely affected. Government are keeping a close watch on the situation.

CHOWKIDARS IN THE DEFENCE MINISTRY

*742. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chowkidars employed in the establishments under the Ministry of Defence are given any festival holidays;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether they are granted any compensatory leave, or other compensation by the Ministry for duty on such holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE ON SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

*743. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official organ of the Indian Embassy in Washington (U.S.A.) recently published an article dealing with the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the article and whether any objection was taken to it; and

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan have taken objection to the said article, if so, on what grounds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL

SINGH): (a) to (c) "India News" which is published by our Embassy in Washington carried an article entitled "YOGA: its benefits and dangers" in its issue of February 9, 1968. The article in question was an excerpt from Swami Vivekananda's book "Raja Yoga". It contained certain references to the Holy Quran and Prophet Mohammed, which were disparaging. Through an oversight, these were not deleted. As soon as the attention of the Editor of "India News" was drawn to these inappropriate references, an apology was published in the March 8 issue of the Weekly. No official *démarche* has been received from the Government of Pakistan on the subject.

CHIEF PRODUCERS OF A.I.R.

*744. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the responsibilities of the Chief Producers of the All India Radio;

(b) whether the administrators and the Chief Producers of the Directorate enjoy the same status in authority pay and other service conditions as at the directorate level; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) The Chief Producers in A.I.R. are responsible for the planning and production of certain categories of programmes.

(b) and (c) The functions of Chief Producers, who are exclusively meant for planning and production of programmes, are totally different from those of regular Government servants who combine programme with administrative responsibilities. Chief Producers are Staff Artists on contract. Their pay, status etc., are regulated by the terms and conditions of the contract entered into by All India Radio with them. There is no common ground for comparison.