

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Our Chanceries in 12 Missions are housed in Government-owned buildings. The residences of Heads of Missions in 26 Missions and staff quarters for some officials in 10 Missions are also owned by Government.

(b) Yes, Sir, subject to the availability of funds.

STAFF OF EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DIVISION

***228. SHRIMATI TARA RAM-CHANDRA SATHE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the staff employed in the External Publicity Division Headquarters and the Information Posts abroad together with the break-up figures regarding designation and salary drawn by each of them;

(b) the number of officers working in the Information Posts abroad who draw a salary plus allowance separately amounting to one thousand or more; and

(c) the number of such officers who were deputed from India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

OPENING OF NEW ORDNANCE FACTORIES

***229. SHRI NARINDAR SINGH BRAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new ordnance factories in the country to boost Defence production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THEM MIN-

ISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) Apart from the three Ordnance Factories at Ambajhari, Chanda and Jabalpur, which are in various stages of establishment, there is at present no proposal to set up another Ordnance factory.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUNDS AND EMBANKMENTS BY PAKISTAN

***230. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is constructing bunds and embankments at different places on Manu, Dhalau, Gomti, Khauri and Muhurim rivers which are likely to result in widespread floods in Tripura as a result of blockade of passage of water in these rivers;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As was stated in answer to a similar question in this House on the 19th December, 1967, the Government of Pakistan's response to our effort has not been encouraging. They have either denied the existence of such constructions or have justified them on the plea: that these were vital. Joint enquiries by Engineers of the two countries have been held in some cases, but no satisfactory results have so far been achieved.

RECOGNITION OF NEWS AGENCIES

***231. SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the basic considerations for recognition of news agencies and syndicates;