

(b) whether Government have ascertained the views of the Hindu Nagas in the matter; and

(c) what is the population of the Hindu Nagas in Nagaland?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Underground Nagas who come for talks to Delhi are not invited on the basis of their religious beliefs. India being a secular State it would be against the letter and the spirit of the Constitution to invite them for the talks on such a basis. There is, therefore, no question of any proposal to invite any separate religious group of the Nagas. There is a legally constituted State Government in Nagaland which has been democratically elected. Their views are always ascertained and taken into account regarding the talks which the Government of India have had or may have with the Underground Nagas.

(c) According to the Census of 1961 about 53 per cent. of the population in Nagaland are Christians and the rest are followers of the ancestral Naga beliefs.

CONSTRUCTION OF AIR BASE NEAR KHULNA BY PAKISTAN

792. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government has recently constructed a new air base near Khulna on the other side of the Indian border;

(b) what is its distance from the Indian border; and

(c) the names of places where the Pakistan Government has constructed air bases after the Tashkent Declaration?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Since the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, Pakistan has set up a number of air bases. It is not in public interest to disclose any details of these air bases.

PEKING RADIO'S PROPOGANDA ON SHRINAGER

793. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to Radio Peking's

broadcast text of which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 22nd October, 1967 in which China supported the Pakistani allegation that the United States planned to establish a base in Srinagar with India's consent to spy on neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to counter such Sino-Pak propaganda?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Radio Peking in a broadcast had given out that according to reports by the *Pakistan Times* of October 14, 1967 "India is co-operating with U.S. imperialism in establishing a base in Srinagar in Indian-held Kashmir for spying on neighbouring countries".

(b) The statement by Radio Peking is as false as it is absurd and Government do not think it necessary to give it the dignity of a formal contradiction.

RELEASE OF UN PROGRAMMES IN INDIA ON THE OCCASION OF UN DAY

794. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the various UN programmes which were released in India on the occasion of UN Day?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : No programme was launched on U.N. Day this year.

ASSAULT OF INDIAN BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY

795. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Bakshi Jagdev Singh, President of International Sikh Brotherhood was man-handled by an official of the Chinese Embassy when the delegation of the Brotherhood went to deliver a note to the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy to convey their request to the Chinese Government to return the occupied Gurudwaras in Shanghai; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) :

(a) A report to this effect was lodged with the police.