

(b) The broad checks exercised by the Centre on projects entrusted to the State P. W.Ds are as follows : —

- (i) Sanctions for works are accorded by Central Government on the basis of estimates prepared by Chief Engineer, P.W.D. and scrutinised by the Director General, Border Roads.
- (ii) The amount to be spent by P.W.D. on Border Roads projects is determined by the Centre.
- (iii) State P.W.D. are required to render Expenditure Returns and Monthly Progress Reports to the Director General, Border Roads.

There is no proposal to introduce any further checks in respect of expenditure on projects entrusted to State P.W.Ds.

SETTING UP OF NEW EMBASSIES IN SOME COUNTRIES

1320. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up new embassies in some countries; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries where the embassies are proposed to be set up?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of External Affairs has certain proposals in hand for the setting up of Missions and Posts in countries where India has no resident representation. These are under consideration in consultation with other Ministries concerned and as and when decisions are taken official announcements will be made.

SIKKIM AND BHUTAN JOINING THE U. N.

1321. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed in principle that they have no objection to Sikkim and Bhutan joining the United Nations; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) As regards Bhutan, attention is invited to the answer given by the Minister of

External Affairs on 5 June 1967 in the Lok Sabha to Starred Question No. 300, to which the Government have nothing to add.

India's relations with Sikkim are governed by the Indo-Sikkim Treaty of 1950 which, *inter alia*, provides as follows :—

"The external relations of Sikkim, whether political, economic or financial, shall be conducted and regulated solely by the Government of India ; and the Government of Sikkim shall have no dealings with any foreign power." [Article IV (1).]

(b) Does not arise.

1322. [Transferred to the 20th December, 1967.]

EXPENDITURE ON INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

1323. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the expenditure on our Missions abroad;

(b) what is the nature of study which has been made recently; and

(c) what steps are being taken to control the expenditure in line with the needs and usefulness of the missions abroad ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The control of expenditure of Indian Missions abroad is exercised regularly through various financial returns rendered by the Missions according to a time-schedule laid down by Government. The Rules and Regulations framed by Government clearly define the powers of Head of Missions to incur expenditure and financial concessions admissible to the Foreign Service Personnel. There is a constant dialogue between the Missions and the Headquarters

about various problems which involve considerations from the financial, service, and political angles. The proposals for the staff are examined by a duly constituted Board/Staff Inspection Unit with due emphasis on economy and functional efficiency.