

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Madam. The workers of Bombay Engineering Group and Centre KirKee, Poona, did not go on strike on 24-7-1967.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CONCENTRATION OF CHINESE FORCES ON THE SIKKIM-TIBET BORDER

IOI. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy concentration of Chinese forces on the Sikkim-Tibet and other sectors of Indo-China border for the last few months ; and

tb) if so, what is Government's assessment in this regard and what steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) As has been indicated on the floor of this House earlier, the Chinese continue to remain in strength along our northern borders and the borders of Sikkim with Tibet. In the Chumbi Valley area, -which includes the area across Jelep. La, the Chinese have strengthened their positions both before and after the incidents at Nathu 1.3 and Cho La.

The activity on the other side having a bearing on our security is taken iue note of and measures taken to meet any threat arising therefrom.

STAFF ARTISTES OF A.I.R.

102. SARDAR RAM SINGH' Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to treat all the otaff artistes of the AIR who are at present functioning on a contract basis as permanent employees;

(b) how many of such employees will be benefitted as a result of the decision ; and

(c) whether such employees will be given pensionary and other usual benefits as are given to other Government employees?

THE MINISTER OP INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) No, Madam, but a proposal to convert certain categories of Staff Artist appointments into regular Government service appointments is under consideration. In the meantime, however, the 5-year renewable contracts are being replaced by letters of contract upto 55 years.

(b) It is too early to form any idea regarding number of Staff Artists who may benefit by the move to make them regular Government servants.

(c) On becoming regular Government servants, the Start Artists concerned will be subjected to all the conditions of service applicable to regular Government servants.

FOREIGN AID TO THE UNDERGROUND NAGAS

103. SARDAR NARINDER S'KGH BRAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's ntention had been drawn to press reports to the effect that the so-called underground Naga "Parliament" has in its last session decided to accept any "military aid" that China or Pakistan might offer;

(b) if so, whether this decision is in accordance with tho "suspension of operations" agreement with the underground Nagas ; and

(c) what are the reactions of Government to the aforesaid decision and the steps they propose to take to deal with the situation?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The Government of India have no reliable rt ports about the 'decision' said to have besn taken by the Underground Nsga.s.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) The Government of India have taken appropriate measures to prevent such contact and help from Pakistan and China reaching the Underground Nagas. Due to difficult terrain and vastness of the area some Underground Nagas do sometimes manage to sneak in and out of India.

ATOMIC POWER PROJECT IN PUNJAB

104. SARDAR NARINDER SINGH BBAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state •

(a) whether any correspondence has passed between the Union Government and the Government of Punjab for setting up an Atomic Power Plant in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of such correspondence?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): <h> Yes Madam.

(b) A request has been received from the Government of Punjab for setting up a Nuclear Power Station in that State. This question will be examined in detail after the feasibility studies, which have been initiated by the Department of Atomic Energy, regarding the setting up of nuclear power stations during the Fifth Plan period are completed.

रेल मंत्री द्वारा संसद-सदस्यों की उपेक्षा

105. श्रीमती सरला भदौरिया : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन्हें हाल में रेल मंत्री द्वारा संसद-सदस्यों के पत्रों की उपेक्षा करने संबंधी कोई शिकायत मिली है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस पर क्या कार्य-बाही की गई है?

t [DISREGARD SHOWS BY THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS TO M.Ps.

105. SHRIMATI SARLA BHADARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

t{] English translation.

(a) whether she has recently received any complaint regarding the disregard shown by the Minister of Railways to the letters received by him from Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?]

प्रधान मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) :
(क) और (ख) प्रधान मंत्री सचिवालय में ऐसा कोई पत्र प्राप्त हुआ प्रतीत नहीं होता ।

किन्तु रेल मंत्रालय से की गयी कुछ-ताछ से पता चला है कि उन्हें श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया के 26 सितम्बर, 1967 के एक पत्र की प्रतिलिपि मिली थी, जो प्रधान मंत्री को सम्बोधित किया हुआ बताया जाता है। इस पत्र में श्री भदौरिया ने शिकायत की थी कि दो ट्रैफिक अप्रेंटिसों के मामलों में बार बार पत्र लिखने पर भी रेल मंत्री ने उत्तर नहीं दिये। रेल मंत्री ने 17 अक्टूबर, 1967 को श्री भदौरिया को एक पत्र भेजा जिस के साथ उन्होंने उक्त मामलों के सम्बन्ध में, जिन की वास्तविक माननीया सदस्या और श्री भदौरिया बहुत समय से रेल मंत्रालय को लिखते रहे हैं, स्थिति समझाते हुए एक टिप्पणी संलग्न की थी।

t[THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No such communication appears to have been received in the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

However, enquiries from the Railway Ministry reveal that they did receive copy of a letter dated 26th September, 1967 purported to have been addressed to the Prime Minister by Shri Arjun Singh Bhaduria. In this letter Shri Bhaduria *inter alia* complained that the Railways Minister¹ had not sent replies to repeated references made by Shri Bhaduria about the cases of two Traffic Apprentices. The Railways Minister sent a reply to Shri Bhaduria