

WORKING HOURS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

358. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 581 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 1967 and state :

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken to revise the working hours of the Central Government Offices ;

(b) whether another Saturday every month, in addition to the existing one is likely to be declared a holiday ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The pre-emergency working hours are being restored from the 1st December, 1967.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PROMOTION OF TOURISM

359. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he recently visited Europe ;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been chalked out to attract tourists from the countries in that area ; and if so, what are the details of the scheme ; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of achieving the target of receiving half a million tourists by 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The trip gave me the opportunity to study at first hand some of the problems of tourism promotion abroad, and helped me get a clear perspective of our own plans for such promotion. Several new ideas for attracting more foreign tourists and projecting a new image of India

abroad have developed and are being worked out. We hope to achieve the target of half a million tourists by the end of the Fourth Plan if facilities such as accommodation, internal transportation etc. can be developed satisfactorily. All efforts are being made to strengthen and expand this tourist infra-structure so as to be able to receive the expected increase over the next few years.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE POSTED IN WEST BENGAL

360. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many battalions of Central Reserve Police were stationed in West Bengal during the first week of October ;

(b) how many were requisitioned by the State Government ; and

(c) what was the purpose of this requisition and whether they have been withdrawn now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) Some armed police contingents were sent to West Bengal at the instance of the State Government who wanted their own armed police force to be supplemented in order to cope with possible disturbances to law and order.

It is not in the public interest to disclose the number of such contingents.

TERMINATION OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND

361. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :

SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Thailand have decided to terminate the flights of their national airlines companies between the two countries with effect from the 1st November, 1967 ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) In September, 1966 the Government of Thailand gave 12 months' notice of termination of the subsisting air agreement between the Governments of Thailand and India. Negotiations were held at Bangkok in September 1967, between the delegations of the two countries for concluding a fresh agreement. No agreement was reached at these negotiations, but the currency of the subsisting agreement was extended by another month. Further negotiations were held again in Bangkok in October, 1967. Since this second round of negotiations also failed to result in an agreement, the services of Air-India to Thailand and of Thai Airline to India were terminated with effect from 1st November, 1967.

REPORTS REGARDING COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

362. SARDAR NARINDER SINGH BRAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any detailed reports from the concerned State Governments regarding the Communal disturbances that took place recently in different parts of the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) No communal incident took place, since August, 1967 in Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Nagaland, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Goa, Daman and Diu, A. and N. Islands, L. M. and A. Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh.

In Assam, Gujarat, Kerala and Orissa there were 23 incidents in which 2 persons were killed and 34 injured.

Information pertaining to other States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

POSTS RESERVED FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

363. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued instructions that posts reserved for Scheduled Tribes, for which Scheduled Tribe candidates are not available, would be treated as reserved for Scheduled Castes and *vice versa* ;

(b) if so, whether those instructions have since been withdrawn ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The instructions were issued in 1954.

(b) According to the present instructions which were issued in 1962, vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes for which suitable Scheduled Tribe candidates are not available cannot be treated as reserved for Scheduled Castes and *vice versa*

(c) The revised instructions of 1962 were issued in pursuance of the recommendation of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission. The Commission had recommended that the orders of 1954 which permitted the appointment of Scheduled Caste candidates in the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes where suitable qualified Scheduled Tribe candidates were not available, should be rescinded as the presence of such a permissive order made for complacency. The Commission had observed that the recruiting authorities should make all possible efforts to find the Scheduled Tribe candidates.

HINDI CORRESPONDENCE WITH KERALA GOVERNMENT

364. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the official correspondence of the Government of India with the Government of Kerala is mostly carried on in Hindi ;