

The Government's policy is to promote economic cooperation among developing countries and on a regional basis. In the view of the Government, religion should be excluded from such matters.

LIAISON BETWEEN INDIANS AND OFFICERS OF INDIAN MISSIONS

*321. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPI-DA3: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the definite steps taken by Government to make external publicity effective;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no liaison between Indian students and other Indians who are abroad; and our officers there; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to draw up a code of conduct for our officers in the Indian Foreign Service and to see that they do not behave arrogantly towards the Indian citizens abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINHA): (a) (i) A senior officer has been appointed to take full time charge of the External Publicity Division.

(ii) We are in the final stages of examining how we can best introduce certain recommendations of the Pillai Committee regarding the operation and structure of our Information Units abroad.

(iii) We are working on measures to build a dialogue with our Missions abroad so as to tailor material to the actual needs of individual Missions, and the different regional requirements.

(iv) We are working out measures for closer cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting particularly in the specialised fields

of All India Radio's external broadcasts, and the production of documentary films and T.V. strips films for presentation abroad.

CD 80, Sir.

(c) Does not arise because every Foreign Service Officer is expected to show the utmost courtesy and consideration to all, particularly to Indian citizens. If any specific instances of arrogant behaviour are given disciplinary action will be taken against those concerned.

CHANDA COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON P.I.B.

*322. SHRI G. R. PATIL;
SARDAR RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendations of the Chanda Committee regarding eventual dissolution of the Press Information Bureau; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) and (b) The Chanda Committee in their Report on Coordination of the Media of Mass Communication have made certain recommendations with regard to the reorganisation of the Government's Press Publicity set-up which aim at eventual dissolution of the Press Information Bureau in its present form. The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

♦323. [Transferred to the 16th June,