

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS EARTH STATION

272. SHRI A. D. MANI:

SHRI N. PATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a satellite communications earth station is proposed to be set up near Ahmedabad in August, 1967; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department is setting up an Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station at Ahmedabad. The Station will be a Centre for research and training in the technology of satellite communication. The United Nations Special Fund is contributing the cost of the main equipment for the Station. The rest of the work, including the construction of buildings, is being undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy. The Station is expected to become operational by August 1967.

MINISTER'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

273. SHRI RAM CHANDER:

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he led a delegation to Kuwait and other countries recently; and

(b) if so, what agreements/arrangements were finalised to increase and strengthen India's relations including trade and cultural relations, with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) and (b) I have already made a Statement on the Floor of the House on 22nd May, 1967 about my recent

visit to Kuwait, Iran, Geneva, Malaysia and Singapore. This statement covers the points raised in the Question.

SITUATION IN VIETNAM

274. SHRI RAM CHANDER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister availed of the opportunity provided by the U. N. Secretary-General's visit to New Delhi recently to discuss proposals and prospects for revival of peace talks in Vietnam and to bring the two sides to the Vietnam conflict to the conference table; and

(b) what other steps have been taken by the Government of India to achieve this objective during the past two months?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is in touch with other Governments, as also with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in its efforts to help find a peaceful solution of the Vietnam problem. At this stage it would not be proper to disclose the nature and content of these contacts which are of a confidential nature.

EXPANSION AND SETTING UP OF T. V. UNITS IN DELHI, CHANDIGARH AND AMRITSAR, ETC.

275. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether proposals to expand the T. V. Unit in Delhi and to set up of T. V. Units at Chandigarh, Amritsar, Jullundur and Ambala have been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any foreign collaboration has been accepted by Government for the expansion of the television system in the country.