

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WOMEN'S LISTENING CLUBS

*276. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the broad outlines of the women's listening clubs and the steps taken by Government to popularise them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

A Women's Listening Club consists of about 20 to 30 members who meet together to listen to the women's programme broadcast from the regional stations of All India Radio, discuss the programme content and send their doubts/queries to the station for being answered in its next broadcast. Such Clubs are in existence both in rural and urban areas, their number being 1,856 and 2,038, respectively. In some cases, this process has resulted in some action projects being undertaken—e.g. Family Planning, Child Welfare etc.

In the Conference of the State Ministers of Information and State Directors of Information held on the 7th and 8th May, 1965, the State Governments were requested to ensure that Mukhya Sevi-kas and Gram Sevikas take an active interest in the formation and activation of these Clubs under the guidance and supervision of the Chief Organisers (Radio Rural Forum). The concerned staff at AIR stations are also required to take active interest in the formation of urban and rural Women's Listening Clubs and remain in touch with their conveners.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUBLICATIONS FROM EAST GERMANY

*277. SHRI U. S. DUGAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several publications on geography published by the East German authorities, e.g., "World-Atlas, States and Economy", "Erdkundeunterricht" (Petermann's Geographical Information) are showing parts of Indian territory as part of Communist China;

(b) if so, whether these publications are being freely circulated in the country;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the East German authorities and if so, their reaction to the same; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prescribe these publications ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Atlas, "World-Atlas, States and Economy", the Sino-Indian border as shown in the map is shown with a broken line and is not in accordance with India's position. It bears the legend :

"Final demarcation of border will be clarified through negotiation between the P.R. of China and India" The other publication is not readily available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) According to existing regulations, the import of these and similar publications is banned.

CALCUTTA STATION OF A.I.R.

*280. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the audibility of the Calcutta Station of the A.I.R. has dwindled to nil; and