

DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS OVER AIR

442. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to associate leaders of political parties to discuss important topics over A.I.R.;

(b) if so, the topics proposed to be discussed; and

(c) when final decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c) Members of various political parties are already being invited to participate in discussions on important topics arranged by All India Radio from time to time. It has now been decided to introduce a more frequent series of discussions on a wider variety of subjects of topical interest in which representatives of different shades of public opinion will be invited to participate. The topics to be covered in these discussions will ordinarily relate to such matters as are uppermost in the minds of the people or on which there may be divergence of views.

SCOTT'S SCHEME FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN NAGALAND

443. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme had been submitted by Rev. Michael Scott when he was in India regarding the formation of an interim Government in Nagaland; and

(b) if so, what were the broad features of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, he had circulated some of his ideas in a paper titled 'Nagaland Concordat'. Since there was no proposal from the Peace Mission or any reference to it by them no action was taken by Government on it.

(b) Does not arise.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHEAP POCKET-SIZED TRANSISTORS TO VILLAGE WORKERS

444. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to distribute cheap pocket-sized transistors to village workers for transmission of agricultural information in some of the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is being finalised.

MIZO CAMPS IN EAST PAKISTAN

445. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Lengleh which was published in the Indian Express of the 27th May, 1966 to the effect that the Mizo National Front had set up a number of camps in East Pakistan for carrying subversive activities in the Mizo hill area; and

(b) if so, whether Government have urged the Government of Pakistan to liquidate these camps ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir,

'SHEVATCHA MALUSARA'

446. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Marathi film "Shevatcha Malusara" has suffered severe cuts at the hands of Board of Film Censors;

(b) whether some of the cuts relate to excerpts from late Prime Minister Shastri's war time speeches; and

(c) if so the reasons therefor ?