

INDIAN DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

727. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation led by the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, recently visited Afghanistan for talks on economic and industrial collaboration between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries for increasing trade; and

(c) what are the main features of the agreement ?

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

(b) and (c) The purpose of the visit of the Delegation was not to negotiate matters relating to increasing trade and nor was such an agreement signed. The Delegation did, however, finalise with the Royal Afghan Government the terms and conditions of the construction of a 100-Bed Children's Hospital in Kabul. Other avenues of co-operation between India and Afghanistan were also explored and various requests received and suggestions made are now under examination. These include supply of agricultural equipment and implements, the deputation of experts from India, the undertaking of a survey, the provision of training facilities in Lidia to Afghan nationals and intensifying cultural contacts and exchanges between the two countries.

MINISTERS' VISIT ABROAD

728. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers who went out of India in May, June and July, 1966 and the total amount spent on their visits in foreign exchange and rupees separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has made a move to rationalise such visits; and

(c) the names of Ministers in each category who have gone abroad, at least once, every year since 1962 ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

AREA OF INDIA

729. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of the Indian territory as on the 15th August, 1947; and

(b) the area in actual possession of the Indian Government at present ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Figures of area of India as on August 15, 1947 were not computed as such. Including the area of the former Princely States which acceded to India and Portuguese and French possessions which became united with India later, the area of India works out to 12,61,817 sq. miles, as per the latest figures compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation.

(b) The entire area mentioned in (a) above excepting—

(i) approximately 32,500 sq. miles under illegal occupation of China,

(ii) approximately 32,500 sq. miles under illegal occupation of Pakistan.

FERMENT IN PORTUGUESE COLONIES

730. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ferment in the Portuguese Colonies of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea; and

(b) if so, the assistance which Government are rendering to the freedom movements in these territories ?

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

(b) The Government of India have always vigorously opposed the continuation of Portuguese rule in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea and have constantly pleaded the cause of the people in Portuguese Colonies, in the U.N. and in other inter-