

SHHI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know whether the hon. Minister will also take into consideration the case of admissions to the schools—other than the Public Schools—of children of personnel on active service especially these who have laid down their lives and will he give special consideration to the children of such people?

SHHI Y. B. CHAVAN: We do make efforts and e^ven non-official efforts are also undertaken in this matter.

COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION MEDIA

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

(a) whether Government have decided that the Committee on Broadcasting and Information Media should visit London, Moscow and Cairo; and

(b) if so, what are the subjects which the Committee would study in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) A Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, a Member and the Secretary visited Moscow, London, Rome and Cairo from 20th July to 15th August, 1965.

(b) The following subjects were studied:—

In Moscow.—Arrangements for language broadcasts in a multi-lingual country such as the U.S.S.R. and also in external broadcasts;

In London.—Detailed examination of the organisation, programmes and policies of the B.B.C. and the Independent Television Authority;

In Rome.—Study of the use of Radio and particularly TV in Italy for educational purposes and eradication of illiteracy. Telescuola, a special unit

in Italy, has become a model for East European countries and Egypt; and

In Cairo.—Study of the methods adopted in U.A.R. for covering the whole country with a Radio and TV net-work, and for the manufacture of TV sets.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister whether it is not a fact that this is the first time after Indian independence—a Committee has been allowed to go on a foreign trip to study conditions in other countries even though there are reports on these subjects available in any public library?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, there are no reports available. The TV and the Radio are evolving and changing media and the reports that are available are out of date mostly,

SHRI A. D. MANI: I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the fact that there is a regular parliamentary debate on the working of the B.B.C. and that there are a number of reports on the working of both the TV and -the Radio media in all these countries. However may I ask her how much was spent on T.A. and DA. on this trip and what was the amount of foreign exchange involved.

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: An expenditure of Rs. 29,000 approximately including Rs. 10,500 approximately in foreign exchange, was sanctioned for the Sub-Committee's visit abroad.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask whether it is a fact that South America was also suggested as part of the world which the Committee would visit or whether South America was dropped accidentally?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It was never suggested.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: May I know the number of men in the Committee on Broadcasting and Informa-

tion Media and the amount involved in this trip to London, Moscow, Rome and Cairo.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The amount was just mentioned.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: I want to know the number of persons in the Committee and whether they are all officials or whether there are non-officials also.

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Sir, the Resolution was laid on the Table of the House; I can however give the names: They are:

Shri Asok K. Chanda—Chairman.

Shri Nath Pai, M.P.—Member.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy, MP.—Member.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi, M.P.—Member.

Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri, M.P.—Member.

Shri V. C. Shukla, MP.—Member.

AN HON. MEMBER: Did all of them go abroad?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: No; only three went abroad. I will now finish the list.

Shri Hasan Zaheer—Member.

Shri Asok Mitra, Registrar General for India but now I think he is in the Planning Commission.—Member.

Shri M. Chalapathi Rau—Member. He has just resigned. Dr. Hazari Prasad Dwivedi—Member.

Only three went abroad and they are Shri A. K. Chanda, Dr. L. M. Singhvi and Kumari M. Masani, Secretary to the Committee.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the desire to go abroad was that of the whole Committee, whether the matter was considered at a meeting of the Committee or was it only a personal wish of the Chairman

which the Government were pleased to accept?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The remarks made by the hon. Member are rather unfortunate. It was nobody's personal wish. The Committee considered it important that they go and discuss certain matters with knowledgeable people in certain countries. It is true that when they gave us the names of those who would go it was a slightly longer list. However, Finance allowed us only three people and therefore these three went. The trip was also curtailed for they wanted to go to Japan also but that was left out and most of the other cities, you will note, are on the way to and from London.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know what is the difference in productivity and in efficiency in learning something through libraries and through touch?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Answering an earlier question I said that these are changing and evolving media. In Moscow I was told that they are reorganising the whole set-up in an entirely different way.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Has the Committee submitted any Report? If so will it be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The final Report of the Committee will certainly be placed on the Table of the House. They have not given any Report of this trip. They have given two interim Reports, one on broadcasting for the border areas and the second for the rural areas.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is it not a fact that knowledge acquired by reading books in the library and elsewhere does differ vehemently from knowledge acquired by practically going into the problem?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are getting into rather involved educational questions.

SHEI D. THENGARI: May I know how the members were selected for the Committee? Were there any particular criteria?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There was no special directive laid down but I had talks with a number of people before and I thought it was important to have younger people who were interested in certain aspects and had also taken the trouble to find out something about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister said that the Committee decided it. I take it. Now may I know whether the Committee took into account that in those countries these things are very developed and the material conditions do not exist in our country to have them implemented even if you acquired the necessary experience from there and secondly whether the Committee also considered the advisability of first studying whatever material was available here and if necessary by also getting the materials from the countries concerned before it took the decision that a delegation of this kind should be sent? May I know whether this aspect was specifically discussed by the Committee before deciding on this delegation?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, the Committee did fully study whatever books or other literature were available on these subjects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG FLOWN HALF-MAST ON LATE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S FUNERAL

*446. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

la; whenever it is a fact that the Indian National Flag was flown half-mast on Government buildings on the day of the funeral of the late Sir Winston Churchill as a mark of respect to him; and

(b) if so, whether on any other previous occasion on the passing away of a foreign private citizen State mourning in this form was observed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR MAINTENANCE OF AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENTS

*275. THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government for the creation of some additional posts for proper maintenance of Audio Visual equipment in Community Listening Centres; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The maintenance and operation of Community Listening Sets is the sole responsibility of the State Governments. All the State Governments in the South, as well as Maharashtra and Gujarat, have set up excellent maintenance organisations. Some States in the North have weak organisations. They have been asked to set up effective maintenance units.

We propose to establish six central maintenance units mainly for Union Territories. However, they

†•Transferred from the 30th August 1965.