

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am asking him.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Malaysia is a sovereign, independent country. It is a member of the United Nations and we continue to recognise them and they have good relations with us.

\*311. [The questioner (Shri J. H. Joshi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2056-2057 infra.]

#### EXTENSION OF COMMONWEALTH SUBMARINE CABLE TO INDIA

\*312. THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have finalised the proposal for extension of Commonwealth submarine cable from Singapore to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) and (b) No Sir, The matter is still under consideration and it will take some more time to arrive at a final decision.

THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: May I know, Sir, how long it is going to take to finalise that?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunication experts will be held at Colombo in January 1966 to consider this question. When they have made their recommendations, again another Commonwealth Telecommunication conference will be held in London some time in 1966 and then a final decision will be taken.

#### DIPLOMATIC CAR EN ROUTE TO LAHORE

\*313. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on May 29, 1965 a diplomatic car driven towards Waga on the Indo-Pakistan border en route to Lahore was stopped by our border authorities;

(b) whether the persons who were in the car took photographs of a bridge even though they were challenged by the guard at duty; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against those persons who took photographs of the bridge near the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI A. D. MANI: According to my information, about that date a diplomatic car driven by a chauffeur of the Pakistan Embassy, by name Fida Hussain, was caught on this border and when the person was detained and searched they found that he had papers and maps with him referring to troop movements, location of Army pickets and strength of Indian Forces on the Kutch border. The negative films in his camera showed, when developed, objectionable pictures and Army drill. May I ask the hon. Minister, apart from this particular date, whether any person of the name, Fida Hussain, was arrested on the border?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Nobody was arrested. But there was an incident involving two employees of the Pakistan High Commission. They were held in a village near Beas in Punjab on the 19th May, 1965.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order. Sir, the hon. Minister took the advantage of the mistake in the date in this question. Perhaps the date is mistaken. It could be some other date. Suppose the hon. Member was not here, a written answer would have been given. I think in such matters when the Minister knows that a certain