

oiniform scale of rewards for recipients of awards of the Vir Chakra series, the Government of Rajasthan and the Government of Assam intimated that they had decided to give some rewards to recipients of Ashoka Chakra awards also. The scale of these rewards was as follows :—

	Govt. of Rajasthan	Govt. of Assam
	Rs.	Rs.
Ashoka Chakra Class I	£10,000*	^1,500
Ashoka Chakra Class II	5,000*	1,000
Ashoka Chakra Class III	2,000*	700

*Plus some land in Rajasthan canal area.

No such information, in respect of rewards for recipients of Ashoka Chakra awards, has been received from any other State Government.

CALCUTTA RADIO STATION

747. SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any artists are employed at the Radio Station at Calcutta on monthly pay basis;

(b) if so, the number of these artists with their scales of pay and other allowances; and

(c) what are the rates of payment made to other artists at the Radio Station at Calcutta who are engaged on contract basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Pending their appointment on a contract basis, some staff artists are engaged on a month-to-month basis, as a temporary arrangement.

(b) The number of such artists is 12. Out of these, one is getting a monthly fee of Rs. 120 and 11 a monthly fee of Rs. 200 each. No allowances are being paid to these artists.

(c) The other artists, employed as Staff Artists on contract, are paid fees according to the scales prescribed by the Government for the various categories of staff artists as shown in the attached Statement. [See Appendix LI, Annexure No. 34]. They are also entitled now to Allowances admissible to regular Government servants.

GREETINGS SENT BY SHEIKH ABDULLA TO AYUB KHAN

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Sheikh Abdulla and Shri Afzal Beg have sent messages of greetings to President Ayub Khan on his success in the Presidential election; and

(b) if so, what are Government's reactions to these greetings sent by Indian citizens in their non-official capacity?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) A report to this effect has appeared in the Press.

(b) The Government of India see no objection to an individual sending a message of greetings to the President of a country with which India maintains diplomatic relations.

INDIA'S ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD-VICTIMS IN CEYLON

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Ceylon have recently asked for Indian helicopters to rescue the flood-victims in that country; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance rendered by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Ceylon did not make any request for Indian helicopters to rescue the victims of the recent cyclone. However, they requested that