

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b) A Conference of the Directors of Land Records and Surveys of West Bengal and East Pakistan was held at Dacca on 17th and 18th July, 1964 and not on the 20th July, 1964. The Conference did not end in a deadlock. Agreement was reached on a great majority of the 21st items on the agenda.

DOLLAR CREDIT FOR EXPANSION OF TELEPHONES

350. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Development Association has extended a 33-million dollar credit to India for expanding the Indian telephone net work; and

(b) if so, what are the foreign exchange commitments in respect of such extensions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Yes.

(b) The credit is to cover the purchase of imported ferrous and non-ferrous metals, chemicals, cables, wires, insulating materials, components, machinery and testing equipment required by the Indian Telephone Industries, Hindustan Cables, Hindustan Teleprinters and the P. & T. Work shops for meeting the P. & T. demands.

RECORD OF TALKS BETWEEN SHEIKH ABDULLAH AND LATE PRIME MINISTER

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

(a) whether any record of the talks between Sheikh Abdullah and the late Prime Minister has been kept by Government; and

(b) if so, whether the stand taken by the Government of India on final integration of the State of Jammu and

Kashmir with India finds a place in the record?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b) The talks between Sheikh Abdullah and the late Prime Minister were informal and dealt largely with Indo-Pakistan relations. A brief record of these talks was kept. This record is confidential.

H.F.-24 JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

352. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether H.F.-24 Jet fighter aircraft has finally emerged as a fully developed supersonic aircraft in performance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): HF-24 Mk.I aircraft has already been cleared for supersonic flights. Further development work is in progress on this mark as well as on other marks of the aircraft, for obtaining better performance.

Hence, it is not possible to state at this stage that HF-24 Jet fighter aircraft has finally emerged as a fully developed supersonic aircraft in performance.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN HOME MINISTER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION

353. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in the press there arose differences of opinion between the Minister of Home Affairs and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in respect of fixing responsibility for price regulation; and

(b) if so, what are the main points of difference?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) Sir, I am not aware of any such differences.

(b) Does not arise.

REQUEST FROM MAJOR-GENERAL KHANH FOR ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

354. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for assistance from Major-General Khanh, the Prime Minister of South Vietnam, in his fight against communist aggression and infiltration; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister did receive a letter from His Excellency General, Nguyen Khanh, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, requesting assistance from India.

(b) In his reply the Prime Minister has stated that, in the light of the Bandung Declaration to which India and the Republic of Vietnam are parties, the Government of India will be glad to extend such co-operation and assistance as it can in the economic, social and humanitarian fields.

The question of the Government of India providing military assistance to the Republic of Vietnam does not arise as India is Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam.

CHEQUE SYSTEM IN P.O. SAVINGS BANKS ACCOUNTS

355. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the experience of the working of the cheque system introduced in the Savings Bank accounts of some post offices;

(b) whether it is proposed to extend this system to more post offices; and

(c) the number of post offices having this service at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) The system is functioning satisfactorily but not many depositors have availed of it.

(b) The system is already functioning in all Head Post Offices and departmental Sub-Post Offices doing Savings Bank work. It is not possible to extend the system to extra-departmental post offices.

(c) 11994 post offices.

TALKS BETWEEN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND PAKISTAN PRESIDENT IN LONDON

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

(a) whether it is a fact that any talks were held between the representatives of the Government of India and President of Pakistan at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London; and

(b) if so, the purport of the talks and the subjects discussed thereat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b) The Finance Minister lunched with the President of Pakistan, during which there were no specific discussions or negotiations on Indo-Pakistan or other questions. The Finance Minister and the President of Pakistan, however, expressed a general desire to resolve the differences