

INTERVIEW OF THE MINISTER WITH
"ENCOUNTER" IN LONDON

383. SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during her visit to London to attend the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference she was interviewed in the televised programme 'Encounter';

(b) if so, what were the specific questions put to her and what were her replies to those questions; and

(c) the names of the persons who interviewed her on the television?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A transcript of the questions put and the replies given is attached. [See Appendix XLIX, Annexure No. 20].

(c) Mr. Robert McKenzie, the BBC Commentator, and Mr. Richard Harris of the Times.

HONORARY SERVICE OF A. V. MARSHALL
H ARJINDER SINGH

384. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Vice-Marshall Harjinder Singh, after retirement, offered his honorary services to the Defence Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not accepting his offer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Air Vice-Marshall Harjinder Singh was not prepared for extension in service on medical grounds. However, before his retirement he offered his services in an honorary capacity.

678 Rs.—4.

(b) it was not possible for Air Vice-Marshall Harjinder Singh to continue to stay in Kanpur, where the Avro project was located. He would not, therefore, have been available for full time supervision which was necessary for a project of this importance.

STAFF ARTISTES IN A.I.R.

385. SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff artistes in the various stations of the All India Radio who are drawing a monthly salary (i) below Rs. 150 and (ii) between Rs. 150 and 300;

(b) how many of them have been in service for over 5 years.

(c) whether they get any allowances over and above their salary;

(d) what is the usual period of their contract;

(e) upon whose advice they are reappointed after the expiry of their term;

(f) whether there is any provision for staff artistes becoming permanent after having served for a definite period; and

(g) whether there is a graded scale of salary applicable to them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

(a) (i) Below Rs. 150 88

(ii) Between Rs. 150-300 1246

(b) (i) Below Rs. 150 43

(ii) Between Rs. 150-300 847

(c) No, Sir.

(d) From one to three years.