

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-Marshal 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-Marshal Harjinder Singh was not prepared for extension in service on medical grounds. However, before his retirement he offered his services in an honorary capacity.

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(b) it was not possible for Air Vice-Marshal 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.