DEPUTY MINISTER'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

*340. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister of External Affairs recently visited Russia; and
- (b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This goodwill visit was in response to an official invitation extended by the Soviet Government in July, 1963 and renewed again in June, 1964.

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON KASHMIR AFTER COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*344. SHRI N. PATRA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the speech made by the President of Pakistan at a meeting held on 26th July, 1964 at Rawalpindi to the effect that member States of the Commonwealth specially the African States supported the Kashmir policy of the Pakistan Government, and
- (b) if so, what is the actual position regarding our contacts made through our various Embassies and foreign relation offices to bring home our point of view on the Kashmir question to the newly independent African countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH). (a) Government have seen a newspaper report to this effect. However, any suggestion that the African nations had expressed any such support at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference would not be correct, since Kashmir was not discussed by Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

(b) Regular contacts are maintained with foreign countries through diplomatic channels Besides, every opportunity is taken to explain our case to African countries, including the newly independent countries—on occasions, with the help of special delegations from India.

INVITATION FOR PAKISTAN VISIT

*345 SHRI NIREN GHOSH.
SHRI ARJUN ARORA.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether he has received an invitation from the Government of Pakistan to visit that country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. (SHRI DINESH SINGH) In a message handed over by the Pakistan High Commissioner to the Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs on the 11th September, 1964, an invitation has been extended from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to the Minister of External Affairs, to visit Rawalpindi at an early date before the proposed meeting between President Ayub and the Prime Minister The contents of the message are under study

CENSORSHIP OF MAIL IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*346 SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI-Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists any censorship of letters, and other mail articles in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and
 - (b) if so, when it was imposed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B BHAGAVATI): (a) All mail exchanged between China