

U.S.I.S. RELEASE ON KASHMIR

•411. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have officially received a copy of U.S.I.S. release on Kashmir issued in Delhi on 22nd January, 1963; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government did not officially receive a copy of the USIS release. There was, however, a Press release by the USIS on December 20th, 1962, which came to the notice of Government. Some parts of this release were considered factually not correct and otherwise rather improper. The matter was taken up verbally with the USIS authorities, who stated that the release did not represent the official views of the U.S. Government.

SRINAGAR—LEH ROAD

♦412. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Srinagar-Leh Road would be opened to traffic early this year; and

(b) if so, whether special equipment to make it an all-weather road has been acquired?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The road is expected to be opened a little earlier this year than in the past.

(b) The feasibility of keeping Sri-nagar—Leh Road open for traffic throughout the year is under examina-

tion. No orders for special equipment for this purpose have been placed.

CONVERSION OF THE FUNDS OF LOCAL BODIES ETC., IN PUNJAB INTO DEFENCE FUNDS

♦413. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received complaints regarding the conversion of the funds of local bodies, marketing committees and co-operative societies in Punjab into Defence Fund; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) No such complaints have been received in the office of the Prime Minister.

GRANT GIVEN TO BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ

•414. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to the Bharat Sevak Samaj during the year 1962-63;

(b) the purpose and schemes for which this grant has been given; and

(c) whether Government have received any report from the Bharat Sevak Samaj about the utilisation of this amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND FOR PLANNING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the grants given by the Planning Commission so far in 1962-63 is placed on the Table of the House,

(c) Yes, Sir.