

to state whether it is a fact that Indian nationals going to Sikkim are required to sign a register and furnish certain particulars before crossing the border outpost ?

(b) Is it a fact that recently in some cases intending visitors to Sikkim were required to secure permission in writing from the Political Agent before proceeding to Sikkim? If so, why ?

(c) Was this requirement as to the obtaining of such permission publicly notified for the information of the intending visitors to Sikkim?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA) : (a) Check-post officials maintain information about Indians and foreigners entering into or leaving Sikkim. Indian nationals are not required to sign any register.

(b) No.

(c) There is no such public notification, but some old notices can still be seen in some places. These state that foreigners cannot cross into certain areas near the frontiers of India without a special permit.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Has the Government made any detailed inquiry about this matter ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Tier- is enough information on this matter. Sir.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : May I just explain it, Sir? Indians are not required to get permit but any Indian would go there and demand accommodation in dak bungalows. That probably is the reason for some misunderstanding—having to fill a particular form. They have taken the old permit form and indicated their requirements for the dak bungalows on it, because there is no other form or paper there. That perhaps causes some misunderstanding. But it is quite clear that Indians do not require any permit to go there.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Government do anything to remove this misunderstanding ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prime Minister's statement will remove the misunderstanding.

EXPENDITURE ON PLANNING COMMISSION

•150. SHRI B. C. GHOSE: (a) Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state the number of staff employed in the Planning Commission and the expenditure incurred on the Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 33.]

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the hon. Minister kindly say whether now that the Planning Commission has finished its work, it will be disbanded or continued?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : The work of the Planning Commission will have to be continued. The Planning Commission will have now to look to the implementation of the Plan.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know, Sir, if any organisation for the implementation of the Plan will be set up at the Centre which will oversee the work in the States?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : There will be, Sir, a Committee—liaison officers— at the Centre who will look into the various schemes in the Plan which are being implemented.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know, Sir, if that Committee will have power sufficient to influence the States and if they go wrong, to rectify them?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : Generally, Sir, it is also in the interest of the States to see that the programme of