

nor is there any proposal for constructing one in Madhya Pradesh where 30 seats for colliery workers' children have been reserved in a boarding house.

(b) No. There is no proposal for constructing a boarding house for Andhra Pradesh—the sanction is for a boarding house in rented accommodation or in a few miners' houses constructed under the New Housing Scheme of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. The matter is being pursued with the Management of the Singareni Collieries.]

REVIEW OF LIST OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS BY P.I.B.

*531. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Information Bureau in consultation with the External Publicity Division and the Central Press Accreditation Committee reviews from time to time the lists of foreign and Indian correspondents, who are accredited on behalf of foreign agencies and newspapers;

(b) if so, when such review was last made;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present list carries names of correspondents accredited on behalf of foreign news agencies and syndicates which hardly exist; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the present accreditation rules prohibit the use of the services of such correspondents who are accredited on behalf of the provincial and foreign press by those metropolitan newspapers who have already taken their full quota of accreditation?

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

† [] English translation.

(b) May, 1964.

(c) Government are not aware of this.

(d) A quota of accreditations has been fixed for each newspaper group. It would not be proper for a newspaper to utilise the services of a correspondent accredited to another organisation if by so doing its quota of accreditations is, in effect, exceeded.

AWARD TO P. & T. WORKERS FOR DEVOTION TO DUTY IN INDO-PAK. CONFLICT

*533. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for issuing commendation certificates and award prizes to Posts and Telegraphs workers for their devotion to duty and for acts of bravery during the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) and (b) No special scheme is under Government's consideration. But provision already exists for the grant of rewards and appreciation of services in cases of display of exceptional courage and devotion to duty in saving or protecting Government property by the P. & T. staff.

ARMED FORCES INFORMATION OFFICE

*535. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether the Armed Forces Information Office of the Ministry of Defence was functioning under the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India during the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict; and if so why?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MATI INDIRA GANDHI): The Armed Forces Information Office (now Directorate of Public Relations), Ministry of Defence, is a wing of the Press Information Bureau and, therefore, has been functioning as such ever since its creation in November, 1947, and also during the recent conflict. The over-all responsibility for publicising the activities of the Government of India including those of the Armed Forces is that of the Press Information Bureau of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

ACTION OF THE U.N. OBSERVER POSTED IN SIALKOT SECTOR

*537. { SHRI P. ABRAHAM:
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Observer posted in the Sialkot Sector tried on behalf of Pakistan to put to use the Sialkot-Narawal Railway line now under control of our Defence forces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Government have not received reports of any such action on the part of the UN Observers.

(b) Does not arise.

BROADCASTING OF A NEWS RELATING TO BOMB EXPLOSION IN AMBALA

*542. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the news regarding recent explosion of a bomb near a cinema house in Ambala, was broadcast by the All India Radio after it was broadcast by Radio Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this delay by the All India Radio?

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

(b) The time at which this item was broadcast by All India Radio was determined by its relative news value.

†COLOMBO PLAN CONFERENCE

*432. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether India propose to participate in the Colombo Plan Conference to be held at Karachi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): No, Sir.

PAYMENT OF GRAIN ALLOWANCE TO MICA MINE WORKERS

*547. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stay order on the question of payment of Grain Allowance to which the mica mine workers are eligible under the Labour Appellate Tribunal's award of 21st November, 1952, has since been lifted; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) No.

(b) The matter is pending before the High Court. The case was fixed for hearing on the 8th January, 1965 but no one appeared for the respondents and the High Court directed that the stay order should continue till the disposal of the writ petition

†Transferred from the 24th November, 1965.