

Trade and Economic Representatives of India Abroad

*781. **Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for the choice of Indian Trade and Economic representatives overseas; and

(b) whether any special training is given in economic and commercial matters before such representatives are posted overseas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The Commercial and Economic posts in the Indian Missions abroad are normally manned by the Officers of Indian Foreign Service. An effort is made to find Officers who have served in commercial posts abroad or in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and possess the knowledge and experience necessary for functioning in Commercial and Economic posts. In certain cases, non-IFS Officers, who specialise in commercial and economic work, are also selected on an ad hoc basis for such appointments.

(b) Officers are temporarily attached for training and briefing with the concerned departments of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry before proceeding on postings abroad, the length of the attachment varying with the previous experience of the Officer and the type of post to which he is assigned. In the case of the newly recruited IFS Officers, particular care is taken that right from the time of recruitment, the training and subsequent pattern of postings of a selected few of them is so designed as to give them an opportunity to specialise in commercial and economic matters.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know what attempt the Government has made to streamline the staff of

our trade missions abroad? For instance, in this report, Shri Sivashankar has mentioned that the India Stores Department in London could save about £50,000 annually if the shipping and forwarding part of its work could be given to shipping and forwarding agents. There are certain departments which are uneconomic like this. Can we not do something to streamline the departments concerned?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): It concerns me. It is uneconomical. There are two systems of working—one in Washington and the other in London. The Washington system is more economical to us and we are trying to introduce the same system in London. In fact, an officer of mine has gone to London. He is here these days. After the agreement between us and London is signed we will be able to save about £50,000 a year.

Reorganisation of Police Service in Pondicherry

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*784. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Daji:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Police Service in Pondicherry is being reorganised;

(b) how many I.P.S. men are there in Pondicherry Police;

(c) whether the Inspector General and Superintendent of Police of Pondicherry are old French appointees; and

(d) if so, what are their qualifications?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) and (d). No, Sir, The post of Superintendent of Police in Karikal