

Flt. Lt. Sikka of the I.A.F.

*447. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Flt. Lt. Sikka of the I.A.F. has been returned to India by the Pakistan Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Flt. Lt. Sikka was stated by the Pakistan Government as a 'Stretcher case';

(c) whether Government have protested to the Pakistan Government for denying means to India to get information about Flt. Lt. Sikka's illness at an earlier stage; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government thereto?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The officer was repatriated as a 'Stretcher Case'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

External Publicity

*448. { **Shri P. C. Borooah;**
Shri Raghunath Singh;
Shri Bagri;
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan;

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after his recent visit abroad, the Minister of Communications gave a poor account of the External Publicity arrangements of India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Minister of Communications is reported to have said that "Indian publicity abroad is weak".

(b) The question of improving our external publicity is kept constantly under review and necessary steps are taken wherever possible.

Violation of Industrial Truce Resolution

1525. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation that the Kannan Devan Company, Munnar (Kerala) has violated the Industrial Truce Resolution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) The Central Government has not received any representation. The Government of Kerala however, received a complaint that the Company was reluctant to settle disputes by voluntary arbitration as envisaged in the Industrial Truce Resolution.

(b) The matter is being considered by the State Implementation and Evaluation Committee and the Plantation Labour Committee.

Wages of Rubber, Tea and Coffee Plantation labourers in Kerala

1526. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum wages of the Rubber, Tea and Coffee Plantation labourers have not been revised in Kerala since 1952; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Minimum rates of wages for Tea and Rubber Plantation workers in Kerala have been revised with effect from 1st March, 1965. The question of revising the minimum rates of wages for Coffee Plantation workers is under the consideration of the Kerala Government.

(b) Does not arise.