

Missions abroad; those issued by the Missions are distributed by them locally and in the neighbouring countries.

Copies of all publications, issued by the Ministry and by the Indian Missions abroad, are also supplied, regularly, to the Parliament Library, the Libraries attached to the State Legislature and the Information Centres in India.

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** May I know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to Mr. Aneurin Bevan's (Labour leader's) complaint in so many words that India's case on Kashmir was never explained to the British public?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Government have noted that.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know what are the subjects in which information is sought to be given by our Indian Embassies abroad?

**Mr. Speaker:** Do you want all those subjects to be mentioned on the floor of this House?

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** "Government have noted that," but how do the Government account for such situations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is a very difficult matter to deal with in answer to a supplementary question. Maybe, it is due to errors of the Government or our Missions abroad to some extent, but they are also due to various other causes. We are always trying to improve the publicity apparatus. If the hon. Member has any particular idea on the subject, we shall welcome it.

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** The complaint was specific. The complaint was that the case had never been explained to the British public, and from the list which has been now supplied to me. I find that there is nothing in it to show that anything has been done in this direction. This confirms the observations made by the particular gentleman.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not the subject-matter of the question. What all was done through one of those or any of those magazines, etc., is not the subject-matter of this question.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** If the hon. Member reads the list, he will find that items 9, 10, 11 and 12, specifically deal with the Kashmir question.

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** 8 also.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Yes; item 8 also deals with the Kashmir problem.

### Pilgrimage Centres in Pakistan

**\*239. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places of worship and pilgrimage belonging to Hindus, Sikhs and other communities other than Muslims situated in the Western and Eastern Pakistan;

(b) whether these places are being preserved, protected and maintained by the Government of Pakistan or by any other authority; and

(c) whether visitors from India are allowed free access to those places?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Government of India have no definite information, particularly about East Pakistan. According to reports received from various religious organisations, State Governments, etc., there are about 900 Hindu, Sikh and Jain shrines in West Pakistan.

(b) It is not possible to say how many of these places of worship are protected and maintained by the Government of Pakistan. According to the Government of Pakistan, some of the important shrines of Hindus and Sikhs in West Pakistan are being kept in proper repair and their sanctity preserved. The Indian High Commissioner has drawn the Pakistan Government's attention to 78 places of worship in Karachi which are under

occupation or being used for non-religious purposes. In East Pakistan, it is learned that steps have recently been taken to repair a number of Hindu temples and restore regular worship in them.

(c) The Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1953 provides for according facilities to pilgrim parties from one country wishing to pay visits to their shrines in the other country. Generally these facilities continue to be granted by the Pakistani authorities to Indian pilgrim parties.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether there was any reciprocal agreement arrived at at the time of partition and if so, whether that agreement still exists?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Reciprocal agreements have been arrived at in September, 1947 between the representatives of the Governments of India and Pakistan. These agreements have been strengthened and sometimes modified according to the needs of the two countries.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether recently a batch of Sikh pilgrims who wanted to go to Pakistan was refused permission to visit certain places of pilgrimage and if so why?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The questions asked in this House on the subject have been answered at length.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item in today's *Times of India* where it is said that some Sikh pilgrims were prevented from visiting the shrines in Pakistan?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is the exact question which has been answered.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** If it refers to the same incident, I have given the answer; if it is a new one, I do not know about it.

**Shri Bhattacharyya:** Will the hon. Minister collect information about the shrines in East Pakistan as they have done in the case of West Pakistan?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** We have requested certain voluntary organisations to collect the information about West Pakistan.....

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member wants to know if any similar steps will be taken to collect information regarding the temples in East Pakistan?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The problem is not the same in the case of East Pakistan.

श्री बाजोयो : क्या यह सत्य है कि पवित्र पाकिस्तान के कुछ मंदिरों तथा गुरुद्वारों में कसाई खाने खोल दिए गए हैं ?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** In my answer I have already said that certain places of worship are used for non-religious purposes.

#### Export Risks Insurance Corporation

\*240. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the Export Risks Insurance Corporation is going to be established;

(b) who will be the members of the Corporation Board; and

(c) whether there will be any non-official representation in the Board; and

(d) whether any change has been made as regards 'risks' recommended to be covered by the Export Credit Guarantee Committee?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The Export Risks Insurance Corporation is expected to be established in the third quarter of this year;

(b) and (c). The composition of the Board of Directors is under consideration.