

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hawal): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

AUCTION TESTS FOR RADIO ARTISTES

***25. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute discontent that prevails among the radio artistes regarding the method adopted in conducting audition tests of the artistes;

(b) if so, what is the actual complaint of the artistes and the Bhartiya Sangeet Kalakar Mandal; and

(c) what steps do Government propose to take in order to remove the grievances of the artistes and build healthy relations between the artistes and A.I.R.?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No Sir. There is no discontent prevailing amongst artistes. A section of classical music artistes in Bombay did not want to submit to auditions that are meant for classifying and raising the musical standard of All India Radio.

(b) It is difficult to say with precision what the Kalakar Mandal's actual complaint is. As far as could be seen they have made various complaints from time to time and from the beginning their alleged grievances have been changing ground continuously. In a nutshell the latest complaint appears to be that there should be no auditions or men of their choice should be included in the Audition Board.

(c) All genuine grievances of artistes are always taken into consideration and the relations between the All India Radio and artistes are friendly and good all over the country.

It might be added that after the agitation by a group of casual artistes in Bombay, other artistes in Bombay, leading artistes in Calcutta and other stations, have held meetings to condemn the agitation and have supported the efforts of the All India Radio for the

improvement of music and the audition of artistes.

PAKISTAN TRADE DELEGATION

***26. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistan trade delegation is shortly expected at New Delhi in terms of the Indo-Pakistan trade pact signed in March, 1953;

(b) whether the delegation is likely to discuss the possibilities of widening the scope and expanding the volume of trade between the two countries; and

(c) whether the delegation will also discuss the implementation of certain principles approved by the two Governments for regulating the trade between the inhabitants of the adjoining areas of East Pakistan on the one hand and West Bengal, Assam and Tripura on the other?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). At the Indo-Pakistan trade talks in March last, it was agreed that at a later date, there should be further discussions between the two Governments with a view to widening the scope and expanding the volume of trade between the two countries. The date, venue or the agenda of the meeting has not yet been fixed. Meanwhile, the Agreement which was operative up to 30th June 1953 has been extended up to the 30th September 1953.

A. I. R. ARTISTES TRAINED IN B. B. C. AND EUROPEAN STATIONS

***27. Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that every year the Imperial Trust of Great Britain selects an A.I.R. Artiste for training in the B.B.C. and in the European stations at their own expense?

(b) If so, who have been their candidates from A.I.R. in 1951, 1952 and the current year?

(c) Who was recommended for selection in the current year by A.I.R.?