

PERMISSION TO VISIT TOBA TEK SINGH
GURDWARA

*1361. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a batch of fifty pilgrims applied for permission to visit Toba Tek Singh Gurdwara in Lyallpur District (West Pakistan) from the 20th June to 25th June, 1953;

(b) whether that permission was refused by Pakistan;

(c) if so, what were the reasons given for such refusal; and

(d) whether any pilgrims have been able to visit any of the shrines in Pakistan since the introduction of the Passport System?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) A party of 35 pilgrims sought permission to visit Gurdwara Toba Tek Singh from the 19th to the 25th June, 1953.

(b) Yes.

(c) No specific reasons were given. Presumably conditions in West Pakistan were not satisfactory.

(d) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there was any discussion on this subject when the two Prime Ministers met in Karachi last?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There was plenty of discussion on the general question of shrines, Sikh shrines, in Pakistan, but not about this particular visit. There was no discussion about particular visits there or here. We asked for permission; they said it is not convenient. As the hon. Member knows, conditions in Pakistan in those days were very unstable.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Not on this particular visit, but on visit to shrines in general.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There were talks about the security of sacred places and the access to sacred places,

which included what the hon. Member has in mind.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did Pakistan show any willingness to afford greater facilities to such visits?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, in theory. As a matter of fact, I think, quite apart from the general proposition, the House should remember that at this time conditions in Pakistan were such that it was not easy for people to move about. There was martial law and all kinds of things.

ROYALTY TO NEWS AGENCIES

*1362. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether any royalty is being paid to the news agencies for their news service by the A.I.R.?

(b) If so, how is that royalty counted?

(c) Does it vary with any variation in the number of radio receiving licences in force at a particular period?

(d) Were any over-payments made to the news agencies during 1950, 1951 and 1952 due to wrong assessment of the number of receiving licences?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). The royalty is determined either *ad hoc* or on the basis of BR and CBR licences in force on 31st December of each year, for the year following.

(d) Yes, Sir, but not due to any wrong assessment of the number of receiving licences.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the extent of inaccuracy which was carried from month to month?

Dr. Keskar: I think there is a misunderstanding in the mind of my hon. friend. In the year 1950 an overpayment was made by oversight