

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The Tariff Board recommended that this question should be examined by Government and after careful consideration it was decided that such action was not necessary.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*1068. Shri N. L. Joshi: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the Government of India publications, supplied to the Members of Parliament, are made available to the public by sale?

(b) If so, how and if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The publications can be obtained from:—

(i) Government of India Book Depots at New Delhi and Calcutta;

(ii) Government selling agencies and recognized private agents throughout the country;

(iii) Railway Bookstalls;

(iv) Recognized selling Agents and Indian Missions abroad; and

(v) Government of India Publications Branch or the Publication Division, direct.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN PERSIAN GULF

*1069. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether we have a representative of the Government of India in the Persian Gulf areas; and

(b) if so, whether such representative has submitted a report to Government on his tour of the oil field region with a view to a study of the condition of Indian Nationals there?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). There is no representative of the Government of India in the Persian Gulf. A senior officer of the Indian Legation, Baghdad, has, however, been paying periodical visits to the Persian Gulf since 1950, to look after the interests of Indians there and has submitted reports from time to time.

The last visit to Kuwait and Bahrain was paid by the Indian Charge d' Affaires in Baghdad in May 1952.

Certain grievances of the Indian employees in the oil companies were

brought to our notice. Steps were taken thereon and a certain revision was made in the standard agreement for the conditions of service of Indian employees of the oil companies. The agreement was primarily a business contract between private firms in a foreign country and its employees.

INDIAN MUSLIMS HELD UP BY PASSPORT AUTHORITIES IN WEST BENGAL

*1070. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the issue of passports to a large number of Indian citizens belonging to the Muslim community in West Bengal but who are now in the service of the East Pakistan Government, either by option in 1947 or otherwise, have been held up by passport issuing authorities in West Bengal?

(b) Have the Government of India issued any specific instructions to passport authorities in West Bengal in this regard?

(c) Have Government made any inquiries whether the families of these persons live permanently in India and whether they have any permanent family establishments and landed properties in India and West Bengal?

(d) Is it a fact that many of these persons are enrolled as electors in the voters' list in this country for State Assembly and Parliamentary elections and participated in the last general elections?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a), (c) and (d). A report has been called for from the Government of West Bengal. As soon as it is received the relevant information will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No. All claims to the citizenship of India have to be decided in accordance with Articles 5 to 10 of the Constitution of India.

CALCUTTA JUTE DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

*1071. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that none but Europeans are permitted to be members of the Calcutta Jute Dealers' Association?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The name of the Association has since been changed to the Calcutta Jute Brokers' and Dealers' Association and Government understand that Indians are not excluded from being members of this Association.