

exchange of Indian and Yugoslav films; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) and (b). A request for commercial exchange of films has been received from the Embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the matter is under consideration.

U.S. Military Mission in India

408. Shri Mohan Swarup: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total expenditure of the U.S. Military Mission in India is borne by the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred so far and the present strength of the members of this Mission?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) No, Sir, the Government of India has been meeting only some of the local expenses of the Military Mission established by the U.S.A. to deal with the military assistance programme which had been agreed to between the two sides. We undertook to provide reasonable services and facilities to enable the mission to carry on its duties; these have included assistance in kind, such as accommodation and the pay of the mission's local employees, and periodically agreed rupee contributions for such expenses as purchase of stores and travel in India. The dollar expenditure, including the pay and allowances of the U.S. personnel, are borne by the U.S. Government.

(b) In accordance with these arrangements, the total amounts paid so far by the Government of India is Rs. 218.31 lakhs, which was to cover all likely rupee expenditure until June 30, 1966.

The strength of the Mission on the 31st of March, 1967, was 28 Officers and Men.

Territorial Army

409. Shri Jyotimoy Basu: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who enrolled themselves in the Territorial Army from 1960 to 1965;

(b) the number of persons who have fulfilled the commitments made;

(c) the number of persons whose attendance had been less than 50 per cent of the total number of parades held;

(d) the number of persons who attended all the camps; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred thereon from 1960 to 1965?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) 41,034.

(b) 34,800.

(c) 6,234.

(d) 31,922. In addition, 8,492 who were not required to attend camps were called up for general embodiment during 1960—65.

(e) (i) Total expenditure on Territorial Army during 1960—65—Rs. 13,34,76,638.00.

(ii) Approximate expenditure on

(d) above—Rs. 2,03,52,000.00.

Islands in the Indian Ocean

409-A. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:

Shri Umanath:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Government was negotiating to buy over certain Island in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, which are those Islands and who are their owners;

(c) whether the Government of India consider it essential to own

those Islands for defence purposes; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in that direction?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available information the purchase of following islands seem to be contemplated:

(i) Farquhar (ii) Desroches and (iii) the Chagos.

(c) and (d). Government have not so far considered the purchase of any islands for our defence purposes. The Government are examining the implications to India of the reported British intention to purchase the islands mentioned.

Publicity Consultants Engaged by Diplomatic Missions Abroad

409-B Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state in which countries other than U.S.A. and at what cost, Indian diplomatic missions have engaged private firms similar to the one engaged by the Indian Embassy in Washington as publicity consultants on contract?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): In no other countries, Sir.

12.45 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF FALL IN SUGAR PRODUCTION IN U.P. AND BIHAR

श्री गुजानन्द ठाकुर (सहरसा) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, (अध्यक्षान)

Shri Samar Guha (Contai): About my last question, I want a half-an-hour discussion on it.

Mr. Speaker: It is all over now. Shri Yashpal Singh.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (देहरादून) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अदिलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय : . . .

श्री गुजानन्द ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव

Mr. Speaker: Will you please sit down? Shri Yashpal Singh is on his legs.

Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh (Parbhani): My point of order relates to the Calling Attention Notice, which is now before the House. The point of order is based on this. I was informed by the Secretariat that a similar Calling Attention Notice on the same subject couched in the same terms had been rejected for lack of notice. Now, in the past, we were following the practice, namely, whenever any Calling Attention Notice was admitted, and when it was mentioned in the list of business, then, if similar notices are later received from other hon. Members, and if they answer to the requirements of being filed between 9 and 10, or one hour before the House assembles, those names were added to the Calling Attention Notice, for the salient reason that it is the inherent right of every Member of the House to call the attention of the Minister to an urgent matter of public importance, and so, if one Member's notice is admitted and the others' names are not added, then it would amount to discrimination between Member and Member especially when the notices answer the requirements of being filed one hour before the House assembles.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order. The Calling Attention Notice was given at 10 today. I saw it at 10.45. I know it is the same question. I saw not only yours but another half a dozen notices which had also come. I saw them all at 10.45 a.m. today. How could I do it? The rule is very simple. They might have come earlier; but I saw them all at 10.45 today. My hon. friend raises a point of order.