

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Invitations to Prime Minister have been received from the following countries:—

Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Sudan, Burma, Afghanistan, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Araq, Japan and Yugoslavia.

(b) and (c). Prime Minister is expected to visit Ceylon sometime during September, 1967, but no detailed programme has been drawn up so far. In respect of other countries while the invitations have been accepted no decision about the dates of visits have so far been taken.

U.S. Ambassador Chester Bowles talks with Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister

7304. Shri P. P. Esthose:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shri Viswanatha Menon:
Shri Umanath:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports about talks between Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister and the U.S. Ambassador in India regarding PL 480 credits to Andhra Pradesh Agriculturists;

(b) whether the U.S. Ambassador had prior discussions with the Central Government on this question; and

(c) the reaction of Government to such talks with foreign dignitaries?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). Government have seen the press reports. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed us that their Agriculture Minister had an informal discussion with the U.S. Ambassador about the needs of farmers to produce more. Credit was one of the items discussed as it is an important item in agricultural production. There was no mention of PL 480 funds by either party in the course of these informal discussions.

(c) The reaction of the Government of India would depend on the nature of the talks. In this case, no reaction is called for.

Acquisition of land in Darjeeling

7305. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of land acquisition operations by Military in 1963, a large number of people in the Siliguri Sub-Division, Darjeeling have been ousted from their homestead lands;

(b) whether it is a fact that the compensation has not been paid to these people on this account so far; and

(c) if so, when the compensation is likely to be paid?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) No lands have been acquired in the areas mentioned. However, approximately 5663 acres of land have been requisitioned since 1963. This area includes about 95.30 acres of homestead land affecting approximately 313 families.

(b) and (c). A sum of Rs. 15.38 lakhs has been disbursed so far by the civil authorities as initial compensation and rent for the land requisitioned. The assessment, the accord of the requisite financial sanction, and the disbursement of the remaining amount that may be due is in hand and is expected to be completed within the next few months.

U.S. Ambassador's meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Re. Aid to drought affected areas in West Bengal

7306. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Chester Bowles, U.S. Ambassador in India, met the