

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Invitation to Prime Minister of U.K. to visit India

3562. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has extended invitation to U.K. Prime Minister to visit India;

(b) if so, when the U.K. Prime Minister will visit India;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend an invitation for holding the next Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Delhi; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). When the Prime Minister was in the U. K. to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference he extended an invitation verbally to the Prime Minister of the U. K. to visit India. This has been accepted in principle. The dates of the visit will be settled in due course.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

ग्राह में कृत्रिम लैस लगाना

3564. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने विगत अप्रैल में प्रोफेसर फयोडीरोव के नेतृत्व में भारत आये रूसी नेत्र शल्य चिकित्सकों के एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल के सदस्यों द्वारा मोतियाबिन्द का आपरेशन कर के कमजोर नेत्र-लैस को निकाल कर उस के स्थान पर नया कृत्रिम लैस रोपने के सम्बन्ध में कोई अध्ययन करवाया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार इस अनुभव से किस प्रकार लाभ उठाने का है; और

(ग) यह प्रयोग कितने स्थानों पर करके दिखाया गया और इसमें कहां तक सफलता प्राप्त हुई ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राज नारायण) : (क) जी नहीं। वैसे मोतियत शिष्टमण्डल के सदस्यों ने कुछ आपरेशन किये थे परन्तु यह एक नियमित अध्ययन नहीं था।

(ख) भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद् के सहयोग से एक अनुसंधान परि- योजना की स्थापना कर ली गई है।

(ग) ये आपरेशन सरोजिनी देवी नेत्र अस्पताल, हैदराबाद और डा० राजेंद्र प्रसाद नेत्र विज्ञान केन्द्र, नई दिल्ली में किए गए थे। अभी तक इसके परिणाम काफी अच्छे नहीं निकले हैं।

POLITICAL AMBASSADORS

3565. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: DR. VASANT KUMAR PAN-DIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many political ambassadors were appointed by the previous Government and to what countries they were sent and their names; and

(b) will the Government state its policy towards appointing political ambassadors and also its policy with regard to the continuance of the present political ambassadors appointed by the previous Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) A statement giving the required information is

from March, 1971 is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-700/77].

(b) Government takes into account the experience and eminence of the person whom it appoints from public life to senior diplomatic assignments abroad. Bearing in mind the need for a proper projection of India's image Government will take suitable steps in the national interest to select appropriate persons whether from within the foreign service or outside it to hold such posts. Decisions taken from time to time reflect Government's broad policy in this regard.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Andaman and Nicobar

3566. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Telephone Exchange at Port Blair is without minimum modern equipment causing bad service by wrong connection, dead etc. very frequently causing subscribers much hardship; if so, the proposals to rectify the defects;

(b) whether Government received complaints from the Administration if so, what action has been taken; and

(c) the new exchanges to be opened in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) and (b). Port Blair is a 600-line MAX-II. The automatic telephone exchanges of this type are in use in large number of places in India. Earlier on receipt of a complaint from the local administration a team was sent to Port Blair for overhauling the equipment. It was decided to replace two equipment racks (100 line each) by new racks for further improvement in the service. These racks are in transit and will be installed soon after their receipt at Port Blair.

(c) Four new MAX-III type exchanges have been planned to be opened in Andaman and Nicobar Islands at (1) Nan Cowrie, (2) Campbell Bay, (3) Diglipur and (4) Maya Bunder.

Infection by Doctors and Nurses in Hospitals of Gujarat

3567. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the news published in the 'Indian Express' on the 16th June, 1977 that a study in a hospital in Gujarat has revealed that doctors and nurses are a major source of hospital infection and a number of doctors and nurses are found a major source of carrying staphylococcal germs in their nose and finger nails;

(b) if so, whether Government also realise that the hospital staff, who are carriers, are responsible for the spread of the germs in wards and operation theatres; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Yes. The news item was based on an article published in the Journal of Indian Medical Association dated June 1, 1977 by Dr. Saif-ee-et-Al. The article has analysed the presence of staphylococcal germs in the nose swabs and finger nails of the staff, but no co-relation has been established between the spread of infection and the presence of these organisms.

(b) The Government is fully aware of the dangers of spread of infection through carriers in the staff members and are taking necessary precautionary measures in this respect.

(c) The practice of wearing masks, washing of hands and preventing