

of news on Indian developments to our Missions abroad in these regions.

(8) The External Publicity Division has subsidised the location of Indian correspondents belonging to the PTI, the UNI, the Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati in different countries over the last year, the objective being to project news regarding India in a positive light through the independent channel of Indian News Agencies and also to utilize the contacts that they would establish with foreign news agencies and newspaper organizations for external publicity purposes.

(9) The External Publicity Division is also subscribing to special feature services of News Agencies at times commissioning special feature articles on particular Indian developments, relevant to positive external publicity regarding Indian economic, scientific and technological achievements.

(10) The External Publicity Division has also supported the publication of special issues of Indian magazines devoted to the themes of non-alignment, Creation of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, on different aspects of our foreign policy and so on, during the financial year 1980-81. (The special issues were of the magazines 'Man and Development', 'Focus', 'Seminar'). Copies of these special issues were bought on the basis of a guaranteed print order and distributed both in India during important Conferences and through our Missions abroad.

(11) The External Publicity Division has supported photographic exhibitions, exhibitions of Indian paintings and subsidised visits by journalists from abroad to India, which has resulted in positive publicity about India's artistic, cultural, economic and technological developments.

(12) The External Publicity Division has been in touch with technical departments like the Department of Space and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India

and the Division has put out publicity material on India's space and nuclear policies on the basis of material provided by these Departments of the Government. The Indian Missions abroad have been asked to utilize material of this category sent to them in their own publications and in special supplements which they commissioned abroad. Nearly 70 special supplements have been brought out during the year 1980-81. The External Publicity Division is expending its publication programme, to bring out both pictorial and factual books on Indian developments, on specific religious, cultural, economic themes. The External Publicity Division also expects to expand its publication programme on foreign policy subjects, covering statements and debates in Parliament and on other similar public occasions.

(13) The External Publicity Division has initiated action to standardize the books to be made available for the libraries of Indian Missions abroad. A standard list of 260 books has been prepared and action has been initiated to supply these books to different Missions over a period of two to three years, depending on the availability of resources for this particular purpose.

#### **Relinquishing Railway Land in favour of Rayagada Municipality**

418. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Eastern Railway considered the matter relating to the relinquishment of railway land in favour of Rayagada Municipality, Koraput, Orissa;

(b) if so, the quantum of land agreed to be released by the Railway;

(c) whether this question has been discussed by the Government of Orissa and South Eastern Railway Authorities;

(d) the decision and also the terms and conditions arrived at; and

(e) if not yet finalised, when the matter is likely to be taken up for disposal keeping in view the necessity of that Municipality and requirement of the railway therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) 35 acres.

(c) to (e). The State Government of Orissa addressed a letter to the Railway Administration for the relinquishment of land. But consequent upon the development of a proposal to connect Rayagada with Koraput with a rail link in connection with a proposed new Aluminium Complex at Damanjodi, the proposal to relinquish the land has been kept pending till the overall land requirement of the Railway at Rayagada is reassessed.

### Ill treatment with Indians living in African countries

419. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians living in African countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that proper and humane treatment is not being meted out to them; and

(c) if so, the measures with Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR) (a) presumably, the question refers to countries in Africa South of the Sahara. There are approximately 30,000 Indian nationals living in these countries.

(b) Government have not received reports of any ill treatment meted out to the Indian nationals in these countries.

(c) Does not arise.

### Recruitment of Drivers and Conductors in Delhi Transport Corporation

420. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to recruit matriculates and graduates as drivers and conductors respectively in the Delhi Transport Corporation; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far by way of enhancing employment potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) and (b). No. Sir. However, in order to meet the demand for greater politeness and courtesy of urban commuters, specially in Delhi, applications have been invited for the post of retainer crew drivers in the first instance from such of the candidates who have passed matriculation examination of a State Board or Higher Secondary and are in possession of valid licence authorising him to drive a public service vehicle in Delhi State and at least 3 years experience of driving a heavy transport vehicle on an experimental basis. Further action will be taken on the basis of experience gained.

### Closure of Israeli Consulate

421. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the persistent defiance the United Nations resolutions by Israel. Government would consider imposition of economic sanctions against Israel including termination of all trade relations with Israel and closure of Israel Consulate in Bombay;

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?