

U.N. Observers

588. Shri Koratkar: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of United Nations Organisation observers who are now posted on cease fire line in Kashmir State; and

(b) the total amount incurred on these United Nations Organization observers during 1957-58?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The number of U.N. observers posted on the Cease Fire Line in the Jammu and Kashmir State is not fixed but varies from time to time. On the 1st November, 1958, their number was 28.

(b) Expenditure on U.N. observers is borne by U.N.O. The Government of India, however, provide certain minor facilities like accommodation and rations in the forward areas, mechanical transport, free medical treatment in Military Hospital etc. No separate account is maintained in respect of the expenditure involved in the grant of these facilities.

Foreign Publicity

590. Shri Koratkar: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to intensify foreign publicity to counteract Pakistan's false propaganda against Kashmir during 1957-58; and

(b) the amount spent on the same during that period?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) (i) During the year 1957-58, a number of notes with background information and data were sent to various information-Posts abroad for dealing with Pakistan propaganda in their areas.

Our Missions abroad have also issued various brochures and pamphlets on the Kashmir Question in various

languages of their regions. These have gone a very long way in counteracting Pakistan propaganda about Kashmir in those regions. Our Missions have also taken prompt corrective action in regard to false or coloured items on Kashmir and other Indian developments appearing in the foreign press.

(ii) Important news and facts about the Kashmir situation were morse-cast regularly through daily transmissions to our Posts abroad.

(iii) A number of pamphlets on the Kashmir Question were produced by the External Publicity Division and distributed to journalists and correspondents in India and also to our Missions abroad for wide circulation. A list of such pamphlets is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 65.]

(iv) India's point of view on Kashmir has been carefully explained repeatedly to foreign journalists stationed in India as well as to those who visited India. They were supplied regularly with Press handouts and pamphlets etc. brought out by Government of India as well as with books dealing with the subject by prominent Indian and foreign writers

(v) Press Delegations and eminent individual foreign journalists, who visited India, were given facilities to tour this country as also to visit Kashmir and to have first-hand information on this question.

(vi) The progress and development achieved by Kashmir State is being presented abroad through photographs, exhibitions and documentary films.

(b) Details of exact expenditure incurred on the various steps taken to counteract Pakistan propaganda on Kashmir cannot be furnished, as no separate break-up of expenditure is maintained.