

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Prior to 1-1-1980 casual labour employed on railways, whether they were on daily wages or had attained temporary status, were entitled to only three National Holidays. Instances had come to notice where due to an erroneous impression, casual labour in certain administration had been given nine holidays on par with other line staff, which had resulted in overpayments for 6 additional holidays. These overpayments are being recovered in easy instalments.

**Exclusion of Indian Artists from  
"Festival of India"**

3851. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOEL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government had been drawn towards newspaper reports to the effect that frustration prevailed among Indian Artists in the U.K. for exclusion from the "Festival of India"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). The programmes of the Festival have been finalised jointly by the Indian Advisory Committee and the Festival Committee in U.K.

According to the Indian High Commission in U.K. the Indian Artists in U.K. had formed a Committee for the Festival of India to organise associated events for the Festival. This Association organised a programme of events limited to London with financial support from the Art Council of Great Britain.

Reported statement by U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan about arms supply

3852. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the interview given by the U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan to a Pak Urdu daily 'Nawa-i-Waqat' recently, as published in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 28th September, 1982 wherein he is reported to have inter-alia categorically stated that (i) U.S. cannot change aid to Pakistan programme merely because of Indian objections and (ii) U.S. gave special importance to the relations with Pakistan and it could not reduce its support to Islamabad under Indian influence;

(b) whether this repeated American stand of arming Pakistan with the latest sophisticated equipment spells much concern to India particularly the bordering States which had earlier been victims of unprovoked Pakistan aggression; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) to (c). The Government is aware of an interview carried by Pakistani newspaper which was apparently given by the US Ambassador to Pakistan. The Government is also aware of a press report wherein the US Embassy in Pakistan had claimed that the Ambassador was incorrectly quoted by the concerned newspaper. The Government would, therefore, not be in a position to comment on an interview whose very accuracy has been questioned.