

(b) whether those low paid officials have to pay much more rent as compared to the High Officers as calculated on the basis of areas covered by their residences ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to ensure proper maintenance of residences occupied by low paid employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Role of India in Commonwealth on Bangla Desh

5243. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Britain as the head of the Commonwealth has failed in tackling the affairs of Bangla Desh ; and

(b) if so, what will be the role of India in Commonwealth ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Britain is not the head of the Commonwealth although the British Sovereign is symbolically treated as head of the Commonwealth. For its part, the British Government has conveyed to the authorities in West Pakistan the need for a political settlement in East Bengal in accordance with the wishes of the people of East Bengal. The British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Alec Douglas Home, stated in the British Parliament on 23rd June that "on the political point, of what is to be the political future of Pakistan and the political structure it would not be helpful for me to make suggestions at this moment in public. We have made many suggestions in private. The President (of Pakistan) is making a statement on 28th June. One would hope—and we have expressed this hope to him—that he will be able to bring together with West Pakistan the elected representatives from the East. We think that this is essential." However, it is clear from President Yahya Khan's statement of 28th

June, 1971, that efforts for a political settlement in Pakistan have not succeeded.

(b) India has sought to keep the countries of the Commonwealth fully informed about developments in Bangla Desh.

Discourteous Behaviour of Syrian Consul in Bombay Towards a Women Delegation

5244. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Syrian Consul in Bombay insulted a women delegation that called on him on February 15th, 1971 to seek clarification about the Syrian Government's stand on the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane ;

(b) if so, whether Government of India has got any report in this regard from the Syrian Consulate ; and

(c) the particulars thereof and the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Syrian Ambassador after investigation had informed the Ministry of External Affairs that his Consul General had in no way insulted the women's delegation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Alleged Malpractices Adopted by Meerut and Allahabad Service Selection Boards

5245. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been held against malpractices indulged in by Services Selection Boards at Meerut and Allahabad for grant of permanent Commission in the Army ;

(b) whether the Chief of Army Staff has overhauled these Selection Boards ; and

(c) what action Government have proposed to take in order to re-screen those Emergency Commissioned Officers who have been rejected by these Boards ?