

(b) the names of the members of these delegations and the purpose of their visit?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House (*Placed in Library*. See No. LT-175/68].

#### Invitation Cards for Republic Day Function

1429. SHRI RAM CHARAN:  
SHRI LAKHAN LAL  
KAPOOR:  
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:  
SHRI VIKRAM CHAND  
MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for issuing invitation cards for Republic Day Celebrations for different categories of persons;

(b) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament are given only seats each while even the domestic servants of Senior Officers get enough cards for distribution amongst themselves; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the entire procedure in regard to issue of Invitation Cards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Invitations to witness the Republic Day Parade this year were issued to Union Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament, Supreme Court Judges, Members of Planning Commission, Diplomats, Members of Delhi Metropolitan Council and Delhi Municipal Corporation, etc. As regards civil officers of the Government of India, invitation cards were issued to those whose maximum of the pay scale was

less than Rs. 1250, and the actual pay on the 26th January 1968, was not less than Rs. 900 p.m. In the case of the Armed Forces, all Officers down to the rank of Major and equivalent and 50 per cent of those of the rank of Captain and below and equivalent were invited. In the case of officers of the Delhi Administration, invitation cards were issued to all those whose maximum of the pay scale was not less than Rs. 850 and actual pay was not less than Rs 600 p.m. As regards officers employed in the Public Undertakings, invitation cards were issued to those whose maximum of the pay scale was not less than Rs. 1400 and actual pay not less than Rs. 1100 p.m. Invitations, were extended also to office bearers of Staff Councils, and recognised Staff Associations.

As regards non-officials, the aim was to extend invitation to as many persons as possible from different categories of the population, subject to the limitation of available seats; preference was normally given to persons visiting Delhi from abroad and from outside Delhi. Invitations to persons permanently residing in Delhi were issued mainly on the basis of lists given by the Delhi Administration. Requests made by Ministers, M.Ps., officials etc. for issue of invitation cards for their relations and fuest were examined on merits and invitation cards were issued subject to availability of seats. In the case of MPs, normally 4 seats were given. However, a larger number of invitation cards were issued mainly in cases where requests were made in respect of close relations or entitled persons e.g. M.L.As., etc. Normally domestic servants of officers are not issued invitation cards.

(c) Arrangements made to issue invitation cards to invitees for the Republic Day Parade are reviewed every year, and changes are made where considered necessary.