

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, sir.

(b) Government have received no reports to confirm this.

(c) Does not arise.

Release of Indians Imprisoned in Shanghai

2345. SHRI HEM BARUA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Indians imprisoned at Shanghai by the Chinese authorities, Sarvashri Makhan Das and Gurdial Singh, have recently been released after long detention; and

(b) if so, the reasons for their detention as also the terms of imprisonment served on them?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alleged reason for the detention of Shri Makhan Lal Das was the charge of rape and the term of imprisonment served on him was 5 years from 29th October, 1963 to 28th October, 1968. The alleged reason for the detention of Shri Gurdial Singh was collecting intelligence about China. He was in detention from 16th September, 1968.

Rejected Ammunition

2346. SHRI MOHAMMAD YUSUF: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of rejected rounds of 7.62 ammunition are lying at the Ordnance factories at Kirkee and Varangan:

(b) if so, whether this rejection is due to manufacturing defects which

could be taken care of by the management; and

(c) if so, the action which Government propose to take against the management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). In the production of Defence stores, rejection during inspection is not an abnormal feature and this cannot be entirely avoided, particularly in respect of ammunition items. 7.62 is a new item of production which is being established in stages. In new items of production, heavy rejections often occur until production is fully established. In the present case, some ammunition is under investigation and the quantities of suspect ammunition are not abnormally high having regard to the fact that it is a new item. Appropriate corrective measures have already been undertaken.

Shortage of Batteries for Radio sets in Bihar

2347. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enquired about the authority of the news published in the *Indian Nation* (Patna) of the 23rd October, 1968, that 1700 radio sets distributed by the Public Relations Department of the Government of Bihar in Tirhut Division are lying idle for want of batteries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to remedy the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.