

2. Provision in the PL-480 Agreement is in terms of value.
3. The release of 75,000 in respect of all other countries is in terms of quantity.

(b) Nil.

(d) and (e). Programme of import of cotton for a year is settled after taking into account the quantitative and qualitative requirements of cotton and the availability of indigenous cotton. In this assessment care is taken that import does not affect the indigenous production or prices of cotton. All efforts are being made to step up production of indigenous cotton.

Ill-Treatment of Minorities in West Pakistan

564. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that non-Muslims are badly treated in West Pakistan and they are forced to leave that country ; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interest of minorities there ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government are aware of the unhappy lot of minorities in West Pakistan which has compelled large number of them to migrate to India. Government have repeatedly reminded the Pakistan Government of their obligations towards the minorities.

Gujarati Muslims Barred from Entering into Pakistan

565. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has requested India not to permit Gujarati Muslims to go to Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pakistan Government has been informed that there is no truth in the allegation that Gujarati Muslims were migrating to Pakistan. However, it is our policy not to permit unauthorised crossings of the border from either side.

Crossing of Pak-Bound Chinese Caravan into Indian Territory

566. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese Caravan entered Pakistan through the Nintaka Pass, crossing Indian territory in the Gilgit area, illegally occupied by Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the nature thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to intercept this Caravan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Caravan came to Gilgit in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, ostensibly to barter their goods under the so-called Sino-Pak Agreement of October, 1967 and the arrangements made thereunder in November 1968 for the opening of the over-land route.

(c) As the northern areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir are under Pakistan's unlawful occupation, Government have taken no steps to intercept the Chinese Caravan. However, as the House has already been informed, Government have totally reserved their position in notes to the Governments of China and Pakistan, making it clear that the so-called Sino-Pak Agreement of October, 1967 and the arrangements finalised thereunder, are illegal, invalid and unacceptable to us.

Title Conferred on Defence Minister by U. S. S. R.

567. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any title from the Soviet Union ; if so what is the title ; and

(b) the justification of accepting titles from Foreign countries, when after the Independence most of the titles awarded during the British days were denounced ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

M. Ps. Sent Abroad

568. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Members of Parliament sent to foreign countries during the last six months on Government cost ;

(b) the criteria adopted in the selection of Members of Parliament for such purposes ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have been given such opportunities more than once, whereas others have not been given the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Visit by a Union Deputy Minister to Riot-Affected Area of Ahmedabad

569. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Union Deputy Minister, Shri Mohammad Yunus Saleem, visited the riot-affected areas of Ahmedabad ;

(b) whether the Deputy Minister was deputed by the Centre for an on the spot study ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during his stay, he visited only the minority community and made statements which increased tension ;

(d) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat and leaders of many political parties have urged upon the Prime Minister to take stern action against the Central Minister whose conduct was far from happy ; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the Deputy Minister ?

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

(b) The Deputy Minister himself decided to visit Gujarat.

(c) According to the Dy. Minister he followed mainly the programme drawn up by the authorities of the State Government and has denied that his statements increased tension.

(d) and (e) The Chief Minister of Gujarat sent two letters to P. M. on the Deputy Minister's visit ; and the Deputy Minister also sent a report to the Prime Minister. The House will appreciate that it is not possible to give the details regarding these communications. Letters on the subject were also received from some M. Ps. No action was considered necessary.

Recommendations of Sub-Committee of Indo-Iranian Commission for Economic Trade and Technical Co-operation

570. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting was held between India and Iran to consider the recommendations of the sub-Committees of the Indo-Iranian Commission for Economic Trade and Technical Co-operation ; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations that have been accepted by both the countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Decisions on specific proposals and recommendations which have been or are expected to be put forward by the various Joint Committees set up by the Indo-Iran Joint Commission are expected to be taken at the second meeting of the Commission scheduled for January 1970.

Australian Naval Base in Indian Ocean

571. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Australian