

(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