

Migration of Kashmiris to Pakistan

10382. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Kashmiris have recently migrated to Pakistan from India; and

(b) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). Some unconfirmed reports indicate that about 200 Kashmiri families have migrated.

Renewal of Lease of Indian High Commissioners Residence in London

10383. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government has proposed an exorbitant rent to renew the lease of the Indian High Commissioner's residence in London;

(b) if so, the reasons for such increase in the rent proposed;

(c) the rent being paid at present;

(d) whether Government in turn has also made a rental evaluation of the British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how the matter relating to the renewal of the lease of the High Commissioners' residences is proposed to be sorted out?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The Crown Estate Commissioner which owns the prop-

erty at 9 KPG, London, the Indian High Commissioner's Residence, has been escalating its demands for further lease and has now indicated a sum of Pounds 18 million for a 60-year lease.

(b) The Crown Estate Commissioner an autonomous body is now enjoined to charge the market price for all properties it offers for rent or lease.

(c) Till the expiry of lease on April 4, 1990, we were paying an annual rent of Pounds 585 (a sum of Pounds 60,000/- was paid in 1949 for a 42-year lease).

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) As per the lease agreement for the period 1.1.60 to 31.12.89, the rent of the bungalow for British High Commissioner was to be revised w.e.f. 1.1.1980. Accordingly, the British High Commission was requested to deposit the rent at revised rate of Rs. 63,174/- per month w.e.f. 1.1.80. The British have protested against this. The rent for the period beyond 1.1.90 is yet to be decided which will depend upon the land rate prevailing at the time of the extension of the lease.

(f) Government propose to have a reciprocal arrangement whereby we can retain Indian High Commissioner's residence in London and the British can retain the British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi. Various concerned Ministries are coordinating action in this regard.

Automatic Telephone Exchange in Raniganj

10384. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Auto Exchange is going to be started in Raniganj in West Dinajpur district in West Bengal; and