

Maintenance of contacts with Indian Missions abroad by External Publicity Division

*1226. SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Division of External Publicity of his Ministry is maintaining regular daily contacts with Indian Missions abroad ;

(b) if so, the details of the process made use of by the Division and the nature of arrangements made by them to contact these Missions daily ; and

(c) the number of Missions that are maintaining such regular contacts ?

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

(b) These contacts are maintained through teleprinters, telexes, wireless and cables.

(c) The number of Mission in daily contact by means of teleprinters is 61, by telex 10 ; by wireless 4 and by cable 26 ; Total 101.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : In spite of the steps taken by the government the general activities of the Indian Missions abroad are not up to the mark, especially in case of emergencies, as in the present case of the Bangladesh issue. Will the Minister take steps to stimulate the Indian Missions abroad to keep pace with the national emergencies ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Adequate steps have been taken to keep our missions abroad fully informed of the developments that take place at home. I agree with the hon. Member that the arrangements are not as fool-proof or as efficient as they should be. All efforts are being made by the Ministry to improve them.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the government consider recruiting fresh talented people to man these missions ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : That is always the endeavour of the

Ministry. We are also trying to get Information Officers to man our information posts abroad.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Very recently a documentary entitled *Refugees 1971* has been produced in our country, which is a very authentic documentary on the Bangladesh issue. I would like to know from the Minister whether that documentary, or similar documentaries have been sent to our External Publicity Divisions for mass campaign outside India ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : A number of documentary films have been prepared on Bangladesh and they have been sent to the various missions abroad.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : This is the only authentic documentary about Bangladesh issue.

Survey by National Institute of Health Administration and Education of Patients in New Delhi

*1228. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of Health Administration and Education carried out an opinion poll of patients in three different hospitals at New Delhi ;

(b) whether according to this survey, the patients complained against the poor food served, lack of communication to them regarding diagnosis by doctors etc. ;

(c) the other particulars regarding this opinion poll conducted by the Institute and whether the Institute has submitted its report to Government ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the measures adopted by Government to improve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) Does not arise.