

INDO—U.S.A. RELATIONS

*594. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that the resolution on West Asia co-sponsored by India has resulted in growing distrust between India and U.S.A. over West Asia; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction for improving the Indo-U.S. relations by removing any misunderstandings from U.S. mind ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) and (b). It is true that there have been some differences between India and the USA regarding the basis on which a peaceful solution in West Asia could be found. These differences were reflected in the Three Power draft resolution co-sponsored along with others, by India and the one sponsored by the U.S.A. It is, however, not correct to say that this has resulted in growing distrust between India and the U.S.A. over West Asia. Differences between the two countries have been frankly discussed. Both India and the U.S.A. have since voted for the resolution unanimously adopted by the Security Council on 22nd November, 1967.

RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE ARMY

*595. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the military participation ration *i.e.*, the proportion of military utilised individuals from amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the country at present;

(b) whether Government propose to take special measures to increase the number of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Army; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) The percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country as per 1961 Census, are as under :—

Scheduled Castes	14.7%
Scheduled Tribes	6.9%

The corresponding percentages in the Army are as under :—

Scheduled Castes	7.0%
Scheduled Tribes	1.9%

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1939/67].

विदेश जाने वाले मंत्रियों द्वारा उपहार खरीदे जाना

596. श्री एस० एम० जोशी : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशों में दौरे के समय मंत्रियों द्वारा ले जाये जाने वाले उपहारों को खरीदने पर होने वाला खर्च सरकार द्वारा वहन किया जाता है;

(ख) कौन-सा विभाग या अधिकारी यह निर्णय करता है कि मंत्रीगण कितने उपहार ले जा सकते हैं, वे उपहार कितने मूल्य के बीच होने चाहियें;

(ग) जो उपहार उन्हें विदेशों में मिलते हैं, क्या वे सरकार के पास जमा करवाये जाते हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उनका निपटान किस प्रकार किया जाता है ?

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलिराम जगत) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) उपहार स्वीकारकार्य समिति, जिसमें विदेश मंत्रालय का सचिव, संबद्ध प्रभाग का निदेशक अध्यक्ष सह-सचिव और नयाचार प्रमुख होता है, यह निर्णय करती