

IRANIAN PLANES IN PAKISTAN

*144. **SHRI N. K. SOMANI :**
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH
MAHIDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the issue of "Aviation Week and Space Technology" of the 7th August, 1967 containing the report that 90 F-86 Sabre Jets sent by Iran are still in Pakistan and are there to stay,

(b) whether any report has been received from our High Commission at Karachi in this regard, and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT)
 (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) We have kept a careful watch on this matter and have taken suitable action wherever necessary. The Government of Iran had assured us at various levels that the aircraft sent to Pakistan were there only for repairs, servicing and modifications and would return to Iran ultimately. The Government of Iran had also told us that most of the aircraft had gone back to Iran. The Government of India, however, continue to receive reports that these planes are still in Pakistan.

BRIEFING TO NEWSMEN ON NATHU LA CLASHES

*145 **SHRI SHARDA NAND**
SHRI ATAL BIHARJ VAJ-
PAYEF
SHRI JAGANNATH RAO
JOSHI :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL .

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Nathu La fighting in the 2nd week of September, 1967 only one briefing

to the Press was done on the 12th September, 1967 by the Defence Officials in Delhi;

(b) whether the journalists posted at Gangtok and television correspondents who had reached Gangtok were allowed to proceed on the 28th September, 1967 nearly a fortnight after the firing had ended;

(c) whether the Official Photographer arrived at Nathu La only after the fighting was over; and

(d) the steps which Government have taken to improve the efficiency of our Defence publicity ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Apart from one organised general press briefing, non-scheduled briefings were frequently given to the press by official spokesmen throughout the period of firing at Nathu La

(b) It is customary to arrange conducted tours of press parties, giving a chance to the press from all regions as also accredited foreign correspondents. The tours of press correspondents had also to be linked to the developments connected with the situation. Four press parties were given facilities ex-Bagdogra commencing from 25th September, 1967, for visiting Nathu La. The Press parties which visited Nathu La included Gangtok-based press correspondents.

(c) The official photographer and cine cameraman detailed to cover the Nathu La incident arrived at Nathu La on 15th September. Meanwhile, photographic accompaniment of news hand-outs was arranged on the basis of local photographs already available.

(d) A number of measures are under way to improve Defence publicity, particularly relating to coverage of operations. These include setting up of regional and field units, front-line coverage by official P.R. teams as well as newspaper correspondents, setting up of Base Press Camps, quick security clearance of press material and photographs etc.