

Visit of former Minister of Information and Broadcasting to foreign countries

3317. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign countries visited by the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting during the period of internal emergency and the number of times he visited such countries during that period;

(b) the particulars of persons who accompanied him during his visits abroad;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that certain film actresses also accompanied him during the visits abroad; and

(d) if so, the particulars thereof, who bore the expenditure on the persons accompanying the Minister and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The former Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Mauritius, Sweden, West Germany, East Germany, USA., Canada, France and Kenya once and U. K. and U.S.S.R. twice.

(b) & (c). The following persons accompanied the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting:—

(i) U.S.S.R. (Moscow).—Miss Padma Shukla, daughter of former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri P.C. Chatterji, Director General, All India Radio, Shri V.S. Tripathi, Special Assistant to MIB.

(ii) Mauritius.—Miss Padma Shukla daughter of former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri K.N. Prasad, Additional Secretary, Shri V.S. Tripathi, Special Assistant to MIB.

(iii) U.S.S.R. (Tashkent)—Shri A.K. Verma, Joint Secretary, Shri C. K. Sharma, Private Secretary to MIB.

(iv) Sweden, UK and East Germany.—Shri V.S. Tripathi, Special Assistant to MIB.

(v) France, UK, USA and West Germany.—Shri C. S. Tripathi, Special Assistant to MIB.

(vi) Kenya.—Shri S.M.H. Burnay, Secretary, Shri K.N. Prasad, Additional Secretary, Shri R.L. Bandlish, Additional PS to MIB.

* (vii) Canada.—Shri V. S. Tripathi, Special Assistant to MIB.

*Another delegation consisting of the following were invited by the Canadian Film Festival authorities which visited Canada separately:—

(i) Shri A. K. Verma, Director of Films.

(ii) Shri B. R. Chopra
(iii) Smt. Vidya Sinha
(iv) Shri Sanjeev Kumar

} Members of the Film Industry.

(d) Expenditure on the air fare in all cases, was borne by the Government of India. Local expenditure was also borne by the Government of India, except where local hospitality was provided by the Government of the countries concerned.