

(c) what steps have been taken to arrest such incidents in future to ensure safety of Indians and for compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Student demonstrations in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar, on 29th and 30th May turned violent which were joined by disgruntled unemployed Malagasy nationals and anti-social elements. There was wide-spread damage to property and some loss of life. Fortunately no Indian was killed. However, shops belonging to persons of Indian origin including those of 8 Indian Nationals were ransacked and looted. According to a quick estimate made by our mission the total value of loss of property belonging to Indian Nationals could well exceed US \$ 4 million.

(c) Our Ambassador in Antananarivo has taken up the matter with the Malagasy authorities seeking prevention of such incidence and to ensure protection of life and property of Indian expatriates. While expressing regret over the incidents, the Malagasy authorities have assured that they will do their best to ensure security of persons of Indian origin and safety of their property. As regards compensation some of the property damaged and looted was insured. The question of compensation for property lost and not covered by insurance, has been taken up with Malagasy authorities.

#### Consultative Committee Meetings

770. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) in between the Budget Session and the Monsoon Session of Parliament for the year 1978, how many consultative committee and other Parliamentary Committee meetings were held in hill Stations;

(b) names of the committees, place of meetings, duration of meetings and approximate expenditure for these meetings; and

(c) how does this compare with 1976-77 in the above inter-session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (DR. RAMKIRPAL SINHA): (a) Five meetings of the Consultative Committee were held in hill stations between the Budget Session and the Monsoon Session of Parliament in the year 1978.

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees are held under the directions of the Speaker. No information is, therefore, available with the Department of Parliamentary Affairs regarding the number of meetings of such Committees held in hill stations during the period.

(b) and (c). Meetings of the Consultative Committees were held in

hill stations during inter-session periods, 1976, 1977 and 1978 as follows:

Period	Name of the Ministry	Date(s) of Meeting	Place
Inter-session period, 1976 28-5-76 to 17-8-76.	Agriculture and Irrigation.	28-7-76	Simla.
Inter-session period, 1977 9-8-77 to 13-11-77	Information and Broadcasting.	7-10-77	Shillong
Inter-session period, 1978 19-5-78 to 16-7-78.	Communications	25/26-5-78	Srinagar
	Energy	30-6/1-7-78	Srinagar
	External Affairs	3-6-78	Simla
	Steel & Mines	7 to 10-6-78 (including official visits-2 days).	Srinagar
	Works & Housing and Supply & Rehabilitation.	27-6-78	Srinagar

The expenditure on meetings of Consultative Committees is incurred not only by the concerned Ministry/Department of the Central Government, but also by the Secretariats of both Houses of Parliament from where the Members are paid travelling and daily allowances for attending the meetings. As the expenditure involved is incurred by more than one agency, it is not possible to give the actual expenditure incurred on these meetings.

**Excluding Indian Newsmen from the Dinner, Hosted by Foreign Minister**

771. SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Newsmen was excluded from the guest list for the return dinner, hosted by the External Affairs Minister to the Austrian Foreign Minister; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the small size of the hotel room available for the dinner, the guest list for the External Affairs Minister's return dinner had to be restricted and many important personalities, including Austrian Government and Indian Embassy officials and the Indian journalist in question, could not be invited.

**Replacing Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange**

772. SHRI DHARMAVIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4119 on the 23rd March, 1978 re. replacing of Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange and state:

(a) whether preliminary action for building plants for replacing Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange has also been taken in hand; and

(b) if so, the details of such action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.