

2. Provision in the PL-480 Agreement is in terms of value.
3. The release of 75,000 in respect of all other countries is in terms of quantity.

(b) Nil.

(d) and (e). Programme of import of cotton for a year is settled after taking into account the quantitative and qualitative requirements of cotton and the availability of indigenous cotton. In this assessment care is taken that import does not affect the indigenous production or prices of cotton. All efforts are being made to step up production of indigenous cotton.

III-Treatment of Minorities in West Pakistan

564. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that non-Muslims are badly treated in West Pakistan and they are forced to leave that country ; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interest of minorities there ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government are aware of the unhappy lot of minorities in West Pakistan which has compelled large number of them to migrate to India. Government have repeatedly reminded the Pakistan Government of their obligations towards the minorities.

Gujarati Muslims Barred from Entering into Pakistan

565. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has requested India not to permit Gujarati Muslims to go to Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) The Pakistan Government has been informed that there is no truth in the allegation that Gujarati Muslims were migrating to Pakistan. However, it is our policy not to permit unauthorised crossings of the border from either side.

Crossing of Pak-Bound Chinese Caravan into Indian Territory

566. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese Caravan entered Pakistan through the Nintaka Pass, crossing Indian territory in the Gilgit area, illegally occupied by Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the nature thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to intercept this Caravan ?

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

(b) The Caravan came to Gilgit in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, ostensibly to barter their goods under the so-called Sino-Pak Agreement of October, 1967 and the arrangements made thereunder in November 1968 for the opening of the over-land route.

(c) As the northern areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir are under Pakistan's unlawful occupation, Government have taken no steps to intercept the Chinese Caravan. However, as the House has already been informed, Government have totally reserved their position in notes to the Governments of China and Pakistan, making it clear that the so-called Sino-Pak Agreement of October, 1967 and the arrangements finalised thereunder, are illegal, invalid and unacceptable to us.

Title Conferred on Defence Minister by U. S. S. R.

567. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any title from the Soviet Union ; if so what is the title ; and