

Regional Preferences and Payment Arrangements in ECAFE Region

*69. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's proposal for a system of regional preferences and payment arrangement in the ECAFE region has met with stiff opposition from Japan ;

(b) if so, the precise nature of the proposal and the grounds for opposition put forward by Japan ;

(c) the names of the countries in the region which are supporting India's proposal ; and

(d) the further efforts being made by Government to see through the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (d). In pursuance of the relevant decisions taken at the Third Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held in December, 1968, suggestions and schemes for evolving an Asian Trade Development and Liberalisation Programme adequately supported by Regional Payments Arrangements in the ECAFE region have been discussed in different ECAFE meetings in the recent past. No individual country has either put forward any concrete proposal nor has any country opposed the suggestions and schemes under consideration. Group discussions are still going on with a view to reaching a consensus on a concrete scheme. Suggestions in favour of regional preferences and special payment arrangements have received general support from many member countries of ECAFE but no country has yet made any specific commitments. The National Unit of the Government of India is working in close co-ordination with other National Units in the region and the ECAFE Task Force in this multi-action exercise.

Upgrading of Indian Mission at Hanoi

*70. SHRI R. K. AMIN :
SHRI G. C. NAIK :
SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
SHRI MAHENDRA MAJHI :
SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA :
SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI BANSH NARAIN SINGH :
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK :
SHRI PILOO MODY :
SHRI N. K. P. SALVE :
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :
SHRI R. K. BIRLA :
SHRI YASHWANT SINGH KUSHWAH :
SHRI S. KUNDU :
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :
SHRI BHOGENDR JHA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :
SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade our Mission at Hanoi ;

(b) whether the U. S. Government have protested against this move ;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the *Times of India* of the 22nd October, 1969 that South Vietnam has informally indicated to Government that Saigon would not be able to assure the safety of Indian residents should New Delhi raise the status of its Mission in Hanoi ;

(d) if so, the details of representation received from South Vietnamese Government on the subject ; and

(e) the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Government are considering how best expression can be given to the desire in the two countries to strengthen their relations.

(b) It is for the Government of India to decide the nature and extent of bilateral relations with foreign countries. There can be no question of considering any protest from a third country. However, U. S. Government have conveyed their views to us because of their involvement in Vietnam.

(c) Yes Sir.