

**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.

(d) The report is not correct. No such representation has been received from the Government of South Vietnam

(e) Does not arise.

#### Nationalisation of Foreign Trade

- \* SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
- SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :
- SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI :
- SHRI RAM GOPAL SHALWALE :
- SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
- SHRI SHARDA NAND :
- SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN LAL :
- SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY :
- SHRI C. C. DESAI :
- SHRI D. AMAT :
- SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA :
- SHRI C. MUTHUSAMI :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise the whole foreign trade ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). No. Sir. It is, however, proposed to extend progressively the scope of activities of the State Trading agencies in the import and export trade, specially with a view to accelerate the process of entrusting the import of raw materials to these agencies.

#### Brezhnev Plan for Asian Security

\*72. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to Moscow ;

(b) whether the Russian authorities clarified the meaning of Brezhnev plan called the Asian Security system ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether the U.S.S.R. Government agreed for the new contract for manufacturing of the improved version of MIG-21 Aircraft in India ; and

(e) the plan of U.S.S.R. to provide arms to Pakistan in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (d). The recent visit of the Defence Minister to the Soviet Union provided an opportunity for exchange of views with the Defence Minister of Soviet Union and other leaders on various problems of mutual interest. It will not be in the public interest to disclose details of these discussions.

(b) and (c). The Hon. Member may be referring to certain remarks made by Mr. Brezhnev, First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in a speech delivered on the 7th June, 1969. Clarifications from various sources indicate that the arrangement contemplated is that all Asian countries renounce the use of force to settle their differences, and co-operate in economic development.

(e) Government's views on the supply of arms and military equipment to Pakistan was again made known to the Government of U.S.S.R. It is expected that Soviet Union will give due weight to our views.

#### Study Team on Merger of Sick Textile Mills

- \*73. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
- SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF :
- DR. RANEN SEN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a team of officers to examine the implications of possible merger of sick textile mills with stronger ones ;

(b) if so, the names of personnel in the team and when it is likely to start functioning ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Officers Team consists of :

1. Textile Commissioner.
2. A representative of the Board of Direct Taxes, Ministry of Finance.
3. A representative of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
4. A representative of the Department