

Participation of Portugal and South Africa in U.N.C.T.A.D.

145. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI K. N. PANDEY:
SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY:
SHRI RABI RAY:
DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had expressed his opposition to the participation by delegations from South Africa and Portugal in the current UNCTAD Conference in New Delhi;

(b) whether any other countries had expressed similar views; and

(c) whether India, as the host country, made any formal representation on the subject to the U.N. and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many other countries have expressed similar views.

(c) Government of India had expressed their doubts about the usefulness of the participation of the delegations from South Africa and Portugal. However, the opinion of the U.N. Legal Counsel endorsed by the Secretary General left us with no option but to offer them necessary facilities.

Hindustan Steel Limited

146. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration for the setting up of a bi-partite industrial relations machinery in the Hindustan Steel Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been discussed with the representatives of any of the Central trade union organisations;

(c) the main features of the proposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the labour organisations consulted are in favour of secret ballot of the workers to decide the representative character of the Unions in the Hindustan Steel Ltd. plants; and

(e) when the proposed machinery is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): (a) to (e). Presumably, the Hon. Member is referring to the idea of having an arrangement by which a truly representative union of workers could be recognised in each of the steel plants under Hindustan Steel Ltd. as the sole agent empowered to negotiate collective and general issues with the Management and the establishment of a machinery of Joint Standing Committees for securing settlement of industrial disputes by negotiations, conciliation etc. If so, a proposal to this effect has been mooted and some exploratory and preliminary discussions were held in December, 1967, with some of the concerned Trade Unions. Further discussions will take place shortly.

Symposium on Jute Industry

147. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association organised a Symposium in New Delhi recently to focus attention on the special features and difficulties of the jute industry;

(b) whether Government accept the I.J.M.A.s contention that special concessions should be given to the industry to enable it to retain its export markets; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this direction?