

### Non-Aligned Press Pool

1712. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of finalising a 'Non-aligned Press Pool' was considered at the Colombo Conference of Non-aligned nations;

(b) if so, the nature of organisational structure that the Pool will have; and

(c) the assistance to be given by the Indian Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Summit meeting of Heads of State and Governments of non-aligned countries at Colombo approved the Constitution of the Press Agencies Pool as adopted at the Ministerial Conference held at New Delhi in July, 1976. The organizational structure of the Pool is detailed in that Constitution which has already been widely published.

(c) India will actively participate in the Pool in accordance with its Constitution mentioned above.

### Alleged Cumbersome Customs and Administrative Procedure in Calcutta Port

1713. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs and other administrative procedures are so cumbersome at Calcutta Port that a ship takes nearly fortnight to load cargo ports;

(b) whether because of the delay, ships are carrying cargo less by 1000 to 2000 tonnes and as such the port earnings are affected to that extent; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to cut red-tape and make the whole procedure easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):

(a) It is not correct that the customs and administrative procedures are specially cumbersome at Calcutta Port; in fact, uniform customs procedures are followed at all ports.

(b) and (c): Being a terminal port, the ships bringing in import cargo to this port take export cargo on their return voyage. They also take advantage of ship-repairing facilities available at the port. There is also a tendency on the part of the crew to prolong the stay on shore to some extent. These factors lead to longer stay of ships at this port compared to other ports. However, every attempt is being made to speed up the procedures. A working group comprising representatives of port shipping interests and shippers has been constituted to go into the working procedures presently obtaining in the port with a view to streamlining them wherever found necessary.

### Proposal for Introduction of New Telegraphic Codes

1714. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telegraphic codes for sending messages have remained stagnant over a long period;

(b) if so, whether Government consider a proposal for introduction/addition of new telegraphic codes in the interest of the consumers and the Department; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The P & T Department has not prescribed any telegraphic code for sending public messages.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.