

Private Industrialists in Steel Industry

710. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Government propose to allow private industrialists to enter into steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BLJU PATNAIK): The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 has provided the basic policy frame in regard to the development of iron and steel and the related input industries. According to it, the establishment of large integrated steel plants has been earmarked exclusively for the public sector.

However, private industrialists are being allowed, from time to time, to set up small and medium plants in the steel sector for production of steel ingots, sponge iron, pig iron, ferroalloys and rolled products.

Reorganisation of National Apex Body

711. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the National Apex Body to stop all future negotiations;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reorganise this body giving representation to all the recognised unions; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (d). As the composition of National Apex Body and its associate organisations, particularly in the matter of representation to Trade Union Organisations, was restrictive in scope, it was not considered appropriate to continue them with their existing composition.

Since the discontinuation of the Apex Bodies, the Tripartite Labour Conference has been convened and full representation was given to all Central Trade Union Organisations at the Labour Conference.

Applications for passports pending with Regional Passport Authority, Cochin

712. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for passport pending with the Regional Passport Authority in Cochin;

(b) the action Government propose to take to dispose off those applications; and

(c) any suggestions received from the Government of Kerala in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The number of applications pending in the Regional Passport Office, Cochin, as on 31st May, 1977 was 81,000.

(b) Government is taking steps to streamline existing passport procedures and improve systems in the Passport Offices to minimise delays.

(c) The Government of Kerala have suggested increasing the staff strength while they would try to eliminate delay in completing enquiries on passport applications.

गांवों में डाक वितरण

713. श्री कर्पूरी ठाकुर : क्या सचर मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रत्येक राज्य एवं केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश में ऐसे गांवों की संख्या कितनी है जहाँ 31-3-1977 को प्रतिदिन डाक का वितरण होता था; और

(ख) उपरोक्त तिथि को ऐसे गांवों की संख्या कितनी थी जहाँ (1) पाश्चिम