

that the induction of arms into the countries of this region would be detrimental to peace, stability and confidence building in the region and would lead to escalation of tensions.

(b) Government have seen reports to this effect.

#### Reorganization of India Labour Conference

1381. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to reorganise the Indian Labour Conference on the basis of the increased labour force and trade union activity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the avenues for consultation and arriving at consensus on major issues relating to industrial relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). Government propose to convene a tripartite conference shortly to consider, among other things, the composition of the Indian Labour Conference; the conference will be called soon thereafter.

(c) Whenever necessary, consultations are held with the Central employers' and workers' organisations and others on important matters concerning industrial relations.

#### Wagon Industry

1382. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE:

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wagon industry has been facing closure due to railways withdrawing their orders;

(b) whether the wagon Industry has represented to Government for adequate orders; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-cooperation with the wagon industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Sethusamudram Project

1383. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on Ramaswamy Mudaliar Committee's report on Sethusamudram Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the action taken on the unanimous resolution of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in this regard which has also been forwarded to the Central Government; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementing this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a), (b) and (c). The Ramaswamy Mudaliar Committee's Report had pointed out that "Sethusamudram Project", which envisaged joining the Palk Straits with the Gulf of Mannar by cutting a canal, was technically feasible and would be of benefit to Shipping. This was later examined in detail through a high-level committee of the Government of India, spe-