

DECLINING INDIAN INFLUENCE IN EAST ASIA

3064. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report in the press regarding steady fall in India's influence in East Asia; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are the views of an individual journalist and the Government sees no reason to comment on them.

REASONS FOR RISE IN PRICES OF CARS

3065. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state on what grounds Government have raised the ex-factory prices of the three passenger cars by over Rs. 1,000 with effect from the 1st January, 1974 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : With effect from the 1st January, 1974 the ex-factory selling price of the Ambassador car has been increased by Rs. 950/- that of the Premier President car by Rs. 1301/- and that of the Standard Gazel by Rs. 1174/-. The increase is mainly due to increases in the cost of materials, especially steel, and in wages and overheads.

PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN BURMA

3066. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN
LAL BHATIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total number of persons of Indian origin in Burma ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : No accurate figures of persons of Indian origin in Burma are available. According to our information, the total number of such persons may be estimated at about 180,000. This figure includes Indian passport-holders, those who have opted for Burmese citizenship, those who have been registered as foreigners and those who are documentless.

VISIT BY A RUMANIAN DELEGATION

3067. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Rumanian delegation visited our country during January 1974 to discuss matters relating to economic co-operation; and

(b) if so, the nature of the discussions held and the conclusions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Planning Committee, Romania, H. E. Mr. Manea Manesou, paid a visit from January 9 to January 15, 1974.

(b) During Mr. Manesou's visit an Agreement on Cooperation between our Planning Commission and the State Planning Committee of Romania was signed on January 12, 1974 between the Minister of Planning and Mr. Manesou. The Agreement established a Joint Indo-Romanian Study Group of Experts on co-operation in the field of Planning which would, among others, exchange experience and knowledge in the fields of economic forecasting, methodology of planning, formulation of projects and programmes, methods of monitoring and evaluation of planned programmes and projects and methods for increasing pro-