

ticipating in regional economic co-operation through agencies such as ECAFE. An observer delegation from India also attended the SEAMIC meeting held in Singapore in April 1968.

Government is alive to the question of regional economic cooperation.

#### Foreign Collaboration

1604. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have made suggestions for exercising rigid tests in regard to all foreign collaborations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how Government propose to exercise such rigid tests; and

(d) the attitude of Government in regard to limiting foreign collaborations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, in general terms in their paper "Approach to the Fourth Five Year Plan".

(b) (i) foreign collaboration should not be allowed for the manufacture of consumer goods, except in the interest of larger export;

(ii) in fields where indigenous efforts can immediately or within a short time provide the services or goods or a substitute for them, foreign collaboration ought not to be allowed;

(iii) imports of capital goods under collaboration schemes should be examined - from

economy and efficiency angles before such imports are allowed; and

(iv) import of technical and engineering know-how under foreign collaboration should be so restricted that such imports do not downgrade and discourage our own technicians.

(c) It has been decided to set up a Foreign Investment Board exclusively for the purpose of dealing with the foreign collaboration proposals.

(d) While Government welcomes foreign collaboration, its attitude towards it has been selective.

#### Jute Fire Enquiry Committee

1605. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri M. R. Wasifdar, a Security Officer of Howrah Jute Mills under M/s Jardin Henderson & Co., in his evidence before the Jute Fire Enquiry Committee has brought allegations of mal-practice against the monopolists in the Jute trade;

(b) whether the evidence of Shri M. R. Wasifdar before the Committee has revealed the fact that the monopolists in the jute trade are themselves responsible for fire in the jute godowns;

(c) whether the management of M/s. Jardin Henderson and Co. is trying to dismiss Shri M. R. Wasifdar for his evidence before the Jute Fire Enquiry Committee; and

(d) if replies to (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, are being taken by Government to ensure security for Shri M. R. Wasifdar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d). The Central Government has