

Discussion on Problems of Engineering Industry

415. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advisory Council on Trade discussed in September this year various problems faced by the engineering industry ;

(b) if so, the precise nature of the problems discussed and the ways and means thrashed out to solve them ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in pursuance of the decisions taken by the Council ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The problems of engineering industry relating to the supply of various categories of iron and steel for the production of engineering goods for exports were discussed. Steps to meet the requirements of steel for export commitments of the engineering industry during the year are being taken viz. (1) an order for the import of scarce categories of steel is being negotiated by Messrs. Hindustan Steel Ltd., (2) Priority next only to Defence is being given to distribution of indigenously produced iron and steel for purposes of export production of engineering goods.

U. S. Ambassador's Statement on Indian Socialism

416. SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the U. S. Ambassador at a recent Press Conference in Shillong that India's acceptance of socialism as a goal did not mean that the country was heading for Communism and much more needed to be done for the people of forestall the spread of Communist doctrine in India ;

(b) whether Government consider that such statement amounted to gross interference in the internal affairs of our country ; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press reports appearing in the Assam Tribune (Gauhati) on September 2, containing the extracts of Ambassador Keating's speech.

(b) and (c). It is the Government's view that the general trend of Ambassador Keating's speeches does not indicate any interference in the internal affairs of this country. The specific statement referred to in the question appears to be in the nature of a general comment. In the circumstances, the Government have no intention to take any action in this regard.

Indo-Nepal Talks

417. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
SHRI NIHAL SINGH :
SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY :
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether wide ranging discussions between India and Nepal on all outstanding issues were held in August, 1969 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the King of Nepal had discussions with the Prime Minister on the 5th September, 1969 ; and

(c) if so, the matters discussed and the decisions arrived at ?

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

(c) A copy of the Joint Statement issued at the end of the Indo-Nepal talks held in New Delhi from August 29 to September 4, 1969, is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1991/69.]

The Prime Minister met His Majesty the King of Nepal on 5th September, 1969, in Delhi when the latter was in transit through India to Europe. Their discussions were held in a cordial and friendly spirit and covered