

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (d). The Port of Porbandar which is a minor port has been developed as an all-weather port and was opened to traffic on 16 June 1978.

The executive responsibility for the development of minor ports vests with the State Governments. Accordingly, responsibility for further development of the Porbandar port rests with the Government of Gujarat.

Australian, Newzealand and U.S.A. activities in Indian Ocean

***240. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia and Newzealand have agreed to step up activity in Indian ocean along with the U.S. to expand the military role in the Indian ocean;

(b) if so, whether Government have seen and examined the press, reports in this regard; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and the steps being taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) It is understood that at the ANZUS (Australia-New Zealand & U.S.) Council meeting which was held in Washington last month it was agreed that the possibilities for enhancing the effectiveness of their military activities in the Indian Ocean would be explored.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Consistent with our commitment to the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean we cannot but be concerned at any increase in foreign military presence in this area. We propose to continue

our present efforts towards the implementation of the UN Resolution of 1971 declaring the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Government has made known its views to the Member States of ANZUS.

Appointment of Secretary-cum-Personnel Officer in Dock Labour Board

***241. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incumbents of the two top posts namely Deputy Chairman and Secretary-cum-Personnel Officer are direct brothers in any Dock Labour Board;

(b) whether the Labour members on the Dock Labour Board dissented the appointment of the person to the post of Secretary-cum-Personnel Officer on the ground that his brother was Deputy Chairman;

(c) whether the selection committee which made the selection to fill the vacancy of Secretary-cum-Personnel Officer was constituted by the Board-in-meeting which is the appointing authority in the instant case under the extant rules;

(d) who constituted the selection committee; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify the irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. This position exists in Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board.

(b) No, Sir. The Labour members did dissent but not on this ground. A copy of the relevant portion of the minutes of the meeting of Dock Labour Board is reproduced below:--

"Shri Bhadram stated that the Board-in-meeting is the appointing authority to make appointments to the posts carrying a maximum of the scale above Rs. 1000/- p.m.