

Ambassadors to Asian countries

*85. SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI;
SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY;
SHRI K. RAMANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had a meeting with Indian Ambassadors to several South East Asian countries at Kuala Lumpur during her recent visit to South East Asian Countries;

(b) if so, the names of countries whose Ambassadors attended the meeting; and

(c) the purpose of the meeting and the decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting was attended by our Ambassadors to Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand, and our High Commissioners to Malaysia and Singapore.

(c) The purpose of the meeting was to obtain from our Heads of Mission first-hand reports on the present situation in the countries to which they are accredited, the attitude of those countries to current international problems of interest to India and suggestions for the strengthening of our bilateral relations with them. The Prime Minister also gave the Heads of Mission an account of her visits to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. No decisions were taken.

Employment Opportunities and Minimum Wages

*86. SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the factors which have been taken care of for achieving the directive principles of full employment and minimum wages other than

a plan to create matching opportunities in the public and private sectors; and

(b) how the reported increase in the share of allotment to Industry to 30 per cent is consistent with the creation of employment opportunities in the labour intensive projects in rural areas?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The achievement of a state of full employment and assuring a certain minimum wage to all sections of workers in the country are long-term goals, which can be achieved only through a process of sustained and planned development of the economy.

(b) The Fourth Five Year Plan is in the preliminary stages of formulation and no decisions have yet been taken on the extent of allocations for various sectors of development including industry.

Pak Foreign Minister's Statement Re. Communal Riots in India.

*88. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement made by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan regarding the communal riots in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of communal riots in Pakistan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the number of persons killed in these riots and the amount of property destroyed which belonged to the minorities in Pakistan?