

OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Setting up of Islamic Secretariat

*491. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI PRAKASH VIR
SHASTRI :
SHRI YAJNA DATT
SHARMA :
SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Islamic Secretariat with its headquarters at Jeddah has been established ;

(b) if so, who is the Secretary of the said Secretariat ;

(c) whether it also a fact that this Secretariat has started taking active steps to bring the West Asian countries together in the name of religion ;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ; and

(e) the steps taken to counter the grouping of West Asian countries in the name of religion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Although a decision in principle to establish an Islamic Secretariat was taken at the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference held at Jeddah from March 23 to 25, 1970, the Secretariat has not yet started functioning at Jeddah.

(b) Tunku Abdul Rehman, Prime Minister of Malaysia has been appointed Secretary General of the Secretariat.

(c) The Secretariat is still in the process of being organised. The Secretary General has stated that he will supervise

in Kuala Lumpur, the initial organisation of the Secretariat before it shifts to its headquarters in Jeddah.

(d) The Government of India is opposed to the injection of religion into politics. Consequently it is not in favour of institutionalised arrangements based on religion to deal with political problems.

(e) The Government of India has made known its views on this subject to West Asian countries from time to time.

Shortage of Work in Ordnance Factories

*492. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of work in all Ordnance Factories ;

(b) if so, whether this is due to Government's policy of offloading the Ordnance Factories in favour of Private Sector ;

(c) whether this is against the declared policy of his Ministry ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to correct this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir. There is some shortage of workload in the Ordnance Clothing Groups of Factories only.

(b) No, Sir. As the bulk of the deficiencies of the Services in clothing was met in 1963 and 1964 the requirements of the Services for subsequent years has been considerably less and consequently there has been reduction in the workload in the Clothing Factories. The reduction of the workload in the Clothing Factories is mainly on account of decline in the demands of the Services and not due to the off-loading of any of the Ordnance Factories items to Private Sector.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.