

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The facts are being ascertained from the Government of Tamil Nadu and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as received.

Conference on the exploitation of Indian Ocean resources

2737. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is not joining the conference on the exploitation of Indian Ocean resources;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the names of other non-aligned countries which are joining this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir, India did not participate in the conference held in Colombo from 15th to 20th July, 1985 on Economic Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the field of Marine Affairs in the context of the new Ocean regime.

(b) The Government of India is of the view that any conference in the vital field of marine affairs relating to the Indian Ocean has to be carefully prepared in terms of the objectives which have to be defined through an extensive process of consultations particularly of all the littoral states of the region. It would not be possible for a Conference to be successful without the development of consensus, based on such consultations. At the moment, the main priority has necessarily to be on efforts at achieving the convening of the Conference on the implementation

of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This Conference is of Prime importance. Nothing should be done which could result in a setback to this main objective.

(c) The names of the Non-aligned countries which attended the July meeting are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comores, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia (Observer), Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Revision of pay in the ITDC

2738. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the majority unions in the India Tourism Development Corporation is interested to follow government's guidelines for revision of pay but the India Tourism Development Corporation Management is using puppet unions to violate these guidelines with the motive of delaying or evading pay revision of its non-HCE employees at the cost of industrial peace and harmony;

(b) if not, what progress has been made so far to settle the wage of non-HCE employees;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal based on Government's guidelines for revision of pay of the executive of India Tourism Development Corporation has already been referred to Government for their approval; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the proposal together with the percentage wage-hike proposed to each category and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) ITDC sought views from individual employees on revision of wages of non-HCE employees in the Corporation.