

### Standing Committee for Organising Rural Labour

391. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Standing Committee for continuous monitoring of the progress made in organising the rural labour and extending social security scheme to them; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Action has been initiated to set up a Central Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour as recommended by the Special Conference held on the subject on 25-1-1978.

### UN Resolution on the Indian Ocean

392. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH

ANAND:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent USA-USSR talks on the Indian Ocean have in any way improved the prospects of convening a conference of the littoral countries as envisaged in the UN Resolution on the Indian Ocean; and

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any further steps for the implementation of the Resolution?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The fourth round of bilateral talks on the Indian Ocean between the USA and the USSR have

recently concluded. Both countries have been keeping the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean informed of progress in these talks. A meeting of littoral and hinterland States has been called for in the resolution adopted at the recently concluded 32nd Session of the UN General Assembly, as a preparatory step to the holding of a conference which would include the participation of the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean. Without such participation of the great powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean. Without such participation, any meeting or conference would be ineffective.

(b) India has been actively participating in the discussions in the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in particular, in the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean, Government have urged on all concerned the need to urgently convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean with the participation of the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean.

### Export of Steel Sheets to a U.S. Firm

393. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export steel sheets to a U.S. firm;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) how does the present selling rate of the steel sheets compare with the world market rate of this variety of steel sheets?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Government have not placed any export order on any U.S. firm. However, SAIL International Ltd. have concluded seven contracts.