

13. Finally, the ministerial representatives at the Conference reiterated their appreciation to the President of the French Republic and to the Government of France for their hospitality and for their cooperation in facilitating the work of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.

National Apex Body

342. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB
BURMAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the National Apex Body to stop the process of negotiations in industrial disputes ;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reorganise this body by giving representation to all the recognised unions ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) : (a) to (d) As the composition of National Apex Body and its associate organisations, particularly in the matter of representation to Trade Union Organisations, was restrictive in scope, it was not considered appropriate to continue them with their existing composition.

Since the discontinuation of the Apex Bodies, the Tripartite Labour Conference has been convened and full representation was given to All Central Trade Union Organisations at the Labour Conference,

SINO INDIAN RELATIONS

343. SHRI SARDAR AMIAD ALI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-

FAIRS be pleased to slate the steps taken in the recent months to further improve the Sino-Indian relations ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Since the initiative taken to appoint an Indian Ambassador in Peking in July 1976 which was responded to positively by the Chinese Government, a few steps have been taken in keeping with our desire to improve relations. On the occasion of the Spring Fair in Canton in April-May 1977, three representatives of Indian trading houses visited Canton and entered into contracts for selling Indian products and buying Chinese commodities. Further opportunities for enhancing trade between the two countries on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit are being explored. Indian agriculture and health specialists are participating in study tours of China organised by United Nations agencies. India hopes to further the process of normalisation and improve relations with China on the basis of strict adherence to the Five Principles.

Irregularities in Appointment in the Hindustan Steel Limited

344. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged irregularities in appointments to various grades of posts in the Hindustan Steel Limited, Calcutta; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into these irregularities; if so, what are the findings thereof and what action has been taken in the light of these findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : (a) and (b) It is presumed that the reference is to a report published in the Economic Times of 12th May, 1977, under the caption 'Supersessions galore in HSL'. If so, the allegations contained in the report have been found to be incorrect.