

King of Nepal's proposal to declare Nepal as a Zone of Peace

270. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 300 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th January, 1976 and state:

(a) whether the King of Nepal, during his recent visit to China, again made a proposal for declaring Nepal as a Zone of Peace;

(b) Whether Peking's People's Daily in an editorial, supported the proposal; and

(c) whether the Chinese leaders also pledged similar support?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Avenues of cooperation between the Association of South East Asian Nations and India

271. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to explore the possibilities of cooperation both with the Association of South East Asian Nations as a whole and with the five constituent countries of the Association individually; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deputy Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, recently visited Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines and the Foreign Minister visited Indonesia. During these visits, avenues for the promotion of economic cooperation between India

and the ASEAN countries were explored. These avenues include increased trade, more industrial joint ventures participation by Indian firms in global tenders for infra-structure projects, availability of consultancy services from India and deputation/employment of Indian experts as well as technical training of local personnel in India. Our willingness to place our experience and expertise at the disposal of the member countries of the ASEAN on a bilateral basis as well as through the ASEAN as an organisation was welcomed. The ASEAN leaders also welcomed our support to the ASEAN objectives, particularly to the concept of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in South East Asia.

Servicing of Telephones by Private Agencies

272. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the metropolitan cities some private agencies undertake the servicing of telephones; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b) No private agency undertakes the work of servicing of the telephones in any of the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

कर्णाटक में लौह अयस्क के भण्डारों का पता लगाया जाना

273. डा० रामकुपाल सिंह : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कर्णाटक में दोनावलाई में लौह अयस्क भण्डारों का