

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) and (b). Government have asked the Steel Authority of India Ltd., to prepare a 25-year perspective plan for the development of the steel industry in the country. Detailed studies have already been undertaken on the principal requirements of the bases of which a perspective plan for the steel industry for the next 25 years could be prepared. Consequently, the target for production of steel at the end of the century and the level of investment needed to achieve such target would be determined, taking into account the likely overall rates of growth, the requirements of steel and the availability of resources.

Reported Australian Offer to U.K. and U.S.A.

*498. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Australian offer to the U.S. and British fleet to use its naval bases on its Western Sea Board; and

(b) whether this Australian offer will create greater tension in the Indian Ocean; and military pressure against India; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir, the Government have seen a Press report to this effect.

(b) and (c). Any increase in great-power military presence in the Indian Ocean will lead to greater tension and rivalry. It will be a cause for anxiety to the littoral and hinterland States,

including India, which have consistently opposed establishment of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean so as to preserve it as a Zone of Peace.

Centenary Celebration of Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Calcutta

*499. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:
DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether government propose to issue commemorative stamps in connection with the centenary Celebration this year of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta, with which the Indian Nobel prize laureate Prof. C. V. Raman was associated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): Such proposals are considered by high level Philatelic Advisory Committee and special postage stamps are generally issued on the recommendations of this Committee. This proposal was not recommended, amongst others, by the Committee which met last 16-12-75.

भारतीय नौवहन के प्रतिनिधि मंडल द्वारा दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया के देशों का भ्रमण

*500. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने में कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या किसी भारतीय नौवहन प्रतिनिधि मंडल को दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया के देशों को भेजा जा रहा है या कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचारधीन है ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रतिनिधि मंडल द्वारा किन-किन देशों का भ्रमण किये जाने की सम्भावना है ; और

(ग) इस यात्रा का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है और प्रतिनिधि मंडल में किस-किस व्यक्ति को सदस्य के रूप में सम्मिलित किये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

†[Indian Shipping delegation to South East Asian Countries]

*500. SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for sending an Indian Shipping delegation to South East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries likely to be visited by the delegation; and

(c) what is the main object of the visit and the names of the members likely to be included in the delegation?]

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री (डा० जी० एन० हिल्लो) : (क) से (ग) दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों में बढ़ते हुए व्यापार को आवश्यक नौवहन सहायता प्रदान करने की दृष्टि से दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया सम्मेलन के निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए चार सदस्यीय शिष्टमण्डल को इस क्षेत्र में अर्थात्, श्रीलंका, सिंगापुर, मलेशिया, इन्डोनेशिया, थाईलैंड, बर्मा तथा बंगला देश का दौरा करने की सम्भावना है।

शिष्टमण्डल में निम्नलिखित व्यक्तियों के होने की सम्भावना है अर्थात् :

नेता

1. श्री एस० आर० प्रसाद, क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, शिपिंग कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया, कलकत्ता।

सदस्य

2. श्री रसिक लाल नरेचानिया, मालाबार स्टीमशिप कम्पनी लि०, बम्बई।
3. डा० एच० बी० देसाई, प्रोफेसर, भारतीय विदेशी व्यापार संस्थान

सचिव

4. श्री ए० आर० वसावदा, भारतीय/पाकिस्तान/ श्रीलंका / बर्मा / बंगलादेश सम्मेलन का सचिव।

†[THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c). A four member delegation is likely to visit the South East Asian Countries, viz., Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma and Bangladesh to promote the formation of a South East Asia Conference with a view to providing necessary shipping support for the expanding trade in the area.

The delegation is likely to consist of the following:

Leader

1. Shri S. R. Prasad, Regional Director, Shipping Corporation of India, Calcutta.

Members

2. Shri Rasik Lal Narechania, Malabar Steamship Company Ltd., Bombay.
3. Dr. H. B. Desai, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

Secretary

4. Shri A. R. Vasavada, Secretary of India|Pakistan Shri Lanka|Burma Bangladesh Conference.]

Accumulation of Stocks at Durgapur Steel Plant

*501. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Statesman' of