

completed within six months has been undertaken in connection with the long-term steel development programme and can be made use of only while considering proposals for the future Five Year Plans.

Joint Indo-Banglatlesh Steps on Smuggling

*246. SHRI N. S. TALIB:

SHRTMATI MARGARET ALVA:

SHRI S. A. HASHMI:

SHRI SYFD NIZAM-UD-DIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action proposed to be taken by the Governments of India and Bangladesh jointly to prevent smuggling in view of the reports that the smugglers are abandoning the customary sea routes and are probing new *modus operandi* ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): In pursuance of a decision taken during the visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in May 1974, a Joint Indo-Bangladesh Committee on contravention of Customs and Foreign Exchange Regulations is being set up and it is expected to start functioning soon. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance will head the Joint Committee from the Indian side.

Collision of oil tanker and Indian freighter in Bombay harbour

247. SHRI J. S. ANAND:

SHRI L. MAHAPATRO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil tanker and an Indian freighter recently collided in Bombay harbour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to alert other ships including fishing boats in the nearby areas?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Liberian oil tanker 'CAPULONIX' carrying about 47000 tonnes of Iranian crude to Bombay was involved in collision with the Shipping Corporation of India freighter 'STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH' in Bombay Harbour on 13-2-1975. As a result of the collision, two tanks of the tanker were damaged and started spilling oil into the sea. The Master of the tanker was, therefore, ordered to proceed to sea to minimise oil pollution to the port and coast. It is estimated that about 2200 tonnes of crude spilled out into the sea. Enquiries made from some of the Masters of incoming vessels from West Asia Gulf indicate that no oil pollution was visible.

(c) All ships in the Port, the Navy and Fishing Vessels were immediately alerted of the possible oil pollution and instructed to observe the fire and other precautions in view of the highly inflammable character of crude oil spillage.

Decolonisation of African colonies under Portugal

*248. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM

KHAN:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALL

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVTYA:

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of freedom of the Portuguese colonies in Africa was discussed with the Foreign Minister of Portugal during his visit to India; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held?