

TRADE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

*102. SARDAR D. K. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since explored the feasibility of starting trade relations with Israel ;

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

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c) Private parties are already trading with Israel. It is not however proposed to take any action in the matter at Government level, as the necessity for this has not been felt.

NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' CONFERENCE

*103. SHRI R. P. SINHA :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have discussed with Yugoslavia and the U.A.R. about convening a Non-aligned Nations' Conference; and

(b) if so, whether any date has been fixed for such a Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed that a Consultative Meeting of Non-aligned States might first be held to consider *inter alia* the question of holding another summit Conference of non-aligned nations. Inter-Governmental consultations to that end are in progress. No date and place for the Consultative Meeting has yet been fixed.

*104. [Transferred to the 7th May, 1969.]

TRADE TALKS WITH WEST GERMANY

*105. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were recently held in New Delhi with West Germany to narrow down the trade gaps between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) The forum of the first Indo-FRG consultations held in March, 1969 was also utilised for discussions on commercial and economic relations between the two countries. There was complete identity of views between the two countries that the trade imbalance between them should be rectified at an early date. The Indian Delegation made a number of suggestions to increase exports from India. The German Delegation took note of these suggestions and agreed to help India in her efforts to increase exports to the Federal Republic of Germany.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN MINISTERIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK

*106. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for excluding India from the proposed South East Asian Ministerial Economic Development Conference proposed to be held in Bangkok?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : India is not a member of the South East Asian Ministerial Conference for Economic Cooperation. The question of exclusion from the Conference does not therefore arise.