

development of British relations with the EFTA and the EEC, with implications of the fit developments on Commonwealth Preferences; Prospects for the Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: world trade in commodities, Manufactures and semi-manufactures with special references to the developing Commonwealth countries; Commonwealth Cooperation in the field of export promotion, shipping, public procurement and tourism.

(c) It was agreed that there was continuing scope for expansion of intra-Commonwealth trade and for initiatives to promote interest of all Commonwealth countries. The meeting reaffirmed the value of Commonwealth preference system to all the members of the Commonwealth and particularly to its less developed members. It was agreed that the Commonwealth countries should act in concert, wherever possible, in the wider international organisations, concerned with international trade and trade policy. There was agreement that there should be consultations between Commonwealth Governments before any concessions are made in the Kennedy Round Tariff Negotiations affecting the preferential margins enjoyed by Commonwealth partners. On the question of proposed entry of Britain into the EEC, the President of the Board of Trade of Britain gave an assurance that the British Government would at all stages of the negotiations with the European Economic Community, consult closely with the other Commonwealth Governments. The meeting emphasised the importance of securing better access and more stable prices for primary commodities which would be fair to consumers and remunerative to producers. The meeting recognised the importance of Preferences in promoting the trade of Commonwealth countries in manufactures and semi-manufactures and decided that the practical ways in which intra-Commonwealth trade could be expanded, should be further studied. It was agreed that the Commonwealth Secretariat should explore with the Commonwealth Governments the feasibility of the establishment of a Commonwealth Market Development Fund. It was further agreed that a meeting of senior Planning officials from the Commonwealth countries should be convened, *inter alia* to recommend what further steps could usefully be taken re-

garding cooperation in planning and Commonwealth Trade Promotion. While recognising the great complexities of shipping arrangements, it was agreed that the Commonwealth Secretariat should examine the practicability of reviving the Commonwealth Shipping Committee. The meeting further agreed that consultations on tourism in a meeting of experts should be organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

#### **PURCHASE OF COAL BY STEEL PLANT\***

149. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of IRON AND STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal purchased annually by steel plants from N.C.D.C. and from private collieries; and

(b) the reasons for purchasing coal from private collieries when N.C.D.C. production can meet the entire demand?

THE MINISTER OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI T. N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Necessary material is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

#### **WORKERS EMPLOYED ON DAILY WAGES**

150. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of peons, lascars, sanitary cleaners, safaiwalas, record-sorters, binders and ferro-printers, who are working in the Railways on daily wages; and

(b) whether some of these workers have been doing the jobs for more than five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **DETECT/ON OF TICKETLESS TRAVELLERS**

151. SHRI N. PATRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of ticketless travellers detected during the week of annual surprise-checks of clandestine Railway travel in the different Railway Zones and the amount realised from the defaulting persons in 1966 and also during such checks in 1964 and 1965?