

working conditions for the workers in the film industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SHAM NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### HOSTELS FOR SINGLE OFFICERS

427. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

»

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to build hostels for the non-family officers of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI MEHR CHAND JKHANNA): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to construct two hostels in New Delhi—one for single men and another for single women employees in the pay group of Rs. 150 to Rs. 500. The details of the accommodation to be provided in the proposed hostels and their cost have not yet been finalised.

#### REPORTS ON MALDA DISTURBANCES- IN U.S. PAPERS

428. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Indian Embassy in the United States of America took in publicly contradicting the exaggerated and tendentious reports about the Malda disturbances published in *the New York Times* and other United States papers; and

(b) whether the United States Diplomatic Mission in New Delhi was requested to take any initiative to prevent such publication in the United States press?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) The factual accounts of these incidents, especially as explained by the Prime Minister in Parliament and other official statements were made known to the American public through the various bulletins issued by our Embassy in Washington. In addition, officers of the Embassy at high levels, personally briefed editors, editorial writers and commentators, explaining the true position. This had the desired result in that the "New York Times", which initially gave currency to unfounded reports, made quiet amends by publicizing a fairly good summary of the Prime Minister's statement on the subject in the Lok Sabha on May 12, including his criticism of the correspondent concerned.

(b) No, Sir.

#### INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN NON-ALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY PRESIDENT NASSER

429. SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been asked to join a conference of non-aligned nations to discuss economic issues as sponsored by President Nasser; and

(b) if so, what are the details of economic issues that are to be discussed?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) and (b) India will be participating in the Conference on the Problems of Economic Development, sponsored by the U.A.R., in association with us and some other countries. The Conference is not confined to non-aligned countries, but will include countries which are not members of economic groupings. The agenda for the Conference includes commodity problems, development of world trade and the question of the economic development of the under-developed countries.