

OPENING OF A BRANCH OFFICE OF ARAB LEAGUE IN NEW DELHI

263. **SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission for the opening of a Branch Office of Arab League in New Delhi; and

(b) what are the aims and objects of the League and their functions in New Delhi?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Government have agreed to the opening of an Office by the Arab League in New Delhi.

(b) The Arab League is an official organisation for cooperation among Arab States; the functions of its office in New Delhi would be to disseminate information about cultural, economic and other activities of these States and to promote relations between them and India.

CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL-SELF AUTHORITIES HELD IN ISRAEL

264. **SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of International Union of Local-Self Authorities was recently held in Israel;

(b) whether India participated in the Conference;

(c) if so, what was the business transacted at the Conference; and

(d) the names of the delegates who represented India at the Conference?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) No Indian officials participated though it is not known whether or not Indian non-officials interested in local government attended.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

PROCEDURE OF ISSUING VISAS TO ISRAELI NATIONALS

265. **SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure of issuing visas to Israeli nationals who intend to visit India;

(b) the time usually taken by the authorities in issuing visas to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that many foreign tourists visiting Israel have complained regarding inordinate delay in issuing visas to them for visiting India from that place; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid delay in the issue of such visas?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Visa applications of Israeli nationals intending to visit India are considered by the Government of India (in the usual way) on reference by the British Embassy in Israel who act on our behalf.

(b) The time taken varies according to the circumstances of the case, depending on what ancillary enquiries are necessary.

(c) Government have received no complaints of this nature.

(d) Does not arise.

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIES FAIR, 1961 TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

266. **SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Chambers of