

the Government of India and applications from private individuals were also taken into consideration. The selection of officers was made by senior officers of the Ministry of External Affairs including the Secretary General, the Commonwealth Secretary, and while they were still in Delhi, Shri M. J. Desai, Chairman designate of the Commission in Vietnam and Shri G. Parthasarthy, Chairman designate of the Commission in Cambodia. Shri V. K. Krishna Menon acted as Adviser in making most of these selections and all appointments were made with the approval of the Prime Minister.

The appointments of staff were made by a specially constituted Board of Deputy Secretaries who took into account the requirements and made selections on merit.

(c) 18 State Governments for forwarded applications from their employees and candidates were recruited from 10 State Governments.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

*19. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has received any invitation from the Soviet Republics to visit Russia;
- (b) if so, when the proposed visit is likely to take place?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). Some time ago an invitation was extended to the Prime Minister by the Government of the U.S.S.R. to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted but the Prime Minister informed the Ambassador for U.S.S.R. in Delhi that he did not know when he would be in a position to undertake the visit, because of his heavy pre-occupations in the coming months.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROHIBITION POLICY

*20. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have asked the State Governments for information regarding the implementation of the prohibition policy in the States; and
- (b) if so, what are the replies received from the various State Governments in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) The State Governments were asked to supply factual information pertaining to prohibition and to furnish their considered views regarding the results achieved and the lines on which future action should be developed.

(b) A brief summary of the replies of the State Governments received so far is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 8.]

REPRESENTATION FOR EXPORT FACILITIES OF TOBACCO

*21. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation, from the country tobacco growers in Andhra State regarding export facilities for their stocks of tobacco; and
- (b) if so, what are the contents of the representation and what action has been taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A copy of the Resolutions passed at the West Godavari Country Tobacco Conference held on the 17th October 1954, at Yernagudem, Kevvur Taluk, West Godavari District is laid on the Table of the House. The various suggestions made by the

Republics to visit Russia