

Apprentices Act, with particular emphasis on the recruitment of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and of weaker sections.

Under the Department of Mines, the scheme of workers participation has been introduced in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Hindustan Zinc Limited. The provision of welfare facilities has been further stepped up. There was significant improvement in the production of Aluminium, Copper, Zinc and Lead in 1975-76 as compared to the Production in 1974-75. There has also been a very substantial increase in the intake of apprentices in these undertakings.

**Invitation to Pakistan for the non-Aligned meet at Colombo**

**\*257. SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI :**  
**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that efforts are being made by some quarters to extend an invitation to Pakistan to attend the forthcoming summit meeting of the non-aligned countries in Colombo;

(b) whether such a move is in keeping with the basic principles followed in the non-aligned conferences held so far; and

(c) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) The Government is not aware of any efforts so far to invite Pakistan to the forthcoming Fifth Summit Conference of Non-aligned countries to be held in Colombo in August, 1976.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

**Levy for Dock Labour**

**\*258. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :**  
**SHRI ROSHAN LAL :**  
**SHRI HIMMAT SINH :**  
**DR. V.B. SINGH :**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that different rates of levy have been imposed for dock labour taken by private entrepreneurs in different ports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a persistent demand by the Calcutta dock labour for tonnage levy for pool labour of the Dock Labour Board; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) :

(a) Rates of levy vary between different ports and in some cases also between different categories of workers in the same port.

(b) There has been a demand from some of the unions of dock workers for introduction of levy on tonnage basis both for pool workers and monthly workers.

(c) Under the Calcutta Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme, 1970, the Board-in-meeting is responsible to fix the rate of levy. The proposal for collection of levy on tonnage basis was considered by Calcutta Dock Labour Board in its meeting held on 25-7-1974 but was not approved.

**Mica Industry in Rajasthan**

**\*259. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :**

**SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating conditions of mica industry in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of mica have accumulated resulting in closure of most of the mines in the State rendering thousands of workers without employment;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any survey in this regard; and

(d) what steps have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) :

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.