

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has welcomed in principle the proposal to have a pre-Summit meeting of Asian Non-aligned countries at the level of senior officials. Consultations in this regard are continuing.

Appointment of Distributors Dealers by H.S.L.

*267. SHRI I. TOMPOK SINGH :

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA :

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Limited (Fertilizers and Chemicals Division), Calcutta, have appointed any new wholesale distributors/dealers for fertilizers after January, 1976; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 35 wholesale distributors/dealers were appointed after January, 1976 in various States. These include one State Agro Industries Corporation and one cooperative.

Large accumulated stocks of Chemical Fertilisers in H.S.L.

*268. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are large accumulated stocks of Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Ammonium Sulphate fertilizers with the Hindustan Steel Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for the poor off-take of these fertilisers and what steps Government have taken to liquidate the accumulated stocks?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Schemes under 20-Point Economic Programme for the Abolition of Bonded Labour and Implementation of Minimum Wage

♦269. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of the proposals under Government's consideration for the implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme in respect of minimum wage and bonded labour ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : Action has been taken for revision of minimum wages of agricultural workers in almost all States. It is also proposed to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in certain respects, to speed up future revisions and to tighten up the enforcement provisions. Legislation to abolish the system of bonded labour has also been enacted.

Realisation of Outstanding Dues Under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme

*270. SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI KA MESH WAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 793 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, 1976 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employers of private and Government-owned factories and managements owing over a lakh of rupees each as contribution have failed to deposit their contributions under (he Employees' State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to realise the arrears from these employers;

(c) whether any employer has been arrested for non-payment; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : The Employees' State Insurance Corporation have furnished the following information:—

(a) 246 employers in the Private and the Public Sector were in default of amounts to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh and above for the period upto 31-12-1975.