

(a) whether the proposals formulated at the Ministerial Conference of non-aligned countries on Press Agencies Pool held recently in New Delhi to promote cooperation in the field of mass media among non-aligned nations have been enthusiastically welcomed by the press in most Asian, African and South American countries;

(b) whether besides Yugoslavia, any other countries in Europe have supported the move; and

(c) if so, the names of those countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The move has been commended in certain British and French papers.

Time taken for Commissioning of a Power Plant

1565. DR. K. L. RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken for commissioning of a power plant from the date of according sanction; and

(b) the average time taken in countries like U.K. and U.S.A.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The time taken for commissioning the first unit of a hydro-electric plant from the date of sanction normally varies from 5-8 years in India depending upon the extent to which project has been investigated. The time taken for commissioning thermal power plants has in the past varied from 4 to 6 years from the date of sanction.

(b) The average time taken in countries like the U.S.A. and U.K.

in less but is not comparable with Indian conditions where, among other things, equipment, delivery time, construction practices are quite different and heavily mechanised.

National Policy on Edible Oils

1566. SHRI S. A. MURUGANAN-THAM:
SHRI D. K. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to evolve a national policy on edible oils;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The formulation of a national edible oil plan is under consideration of Government and the details thereof are being worked out. It is envisaged that the plan would assess the domestic requirements of edible fats and oils of the country, both of domestic consumers and industrial users, take into account oilseeds crop prospects for the year, the import and export programmes, and ensure availability of edible oils and vanaspati on regular basis and at reasonable prices.

Lamp Industry

1567. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lamp Industry in the country is facing crisis because of serious competition with the foreign companies working in India; and