

prevailing among the Central Government Officers due to annulling Government's decision on personnel policy;

(b) whether the All India Confederation of Central Government Officers' Association in a statement issued on 14th January, 1979 which appeared in the 15th January, 1979 newspapers charged that Government had gone back on the Home Ministry's assurances given to it in April 1978 that there would be consultation with the confederation to counter the secret manoeuvres of the personnel department; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) It is not accepted that there is great resentment among Central Government officers due to annulling Government's decision on personnel policy.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Personnel policies are formulated keeping in view public interest and morale of services. Suggestions received from various sources are considered from time to time on merits.

Meeting of Working Group of NDC

284. Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of working Group of NDC to consider the changes in the Draft Sixth Plan was held recently;

(b) if so, details of discussions with regard to the revision therein; and

(c) reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) to (c). The Committee set up by the National Development Council to review the fiscal arrangements between the States and the Centre and inter alia, to review the Gadgil formula and the scope of the Central and Centrally sponsored schemes in the Plan, constituted a Working Group for the purpose. The Working Group met and deliberated only on these matters. Any question of changes being suggested by the Working Group in the Draft Sixth Plan does not arise.

Second World Hindu Conference

285. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Second World Hindu Conference held in India during January, 1979 discussed the problems of untouchability and cow protection;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Second World Hindu Conference which was held in Allahabad on January 25 to January 27, 1979 passed *inter alia*, two separate resolutions on two issues, namely problem of untouchability and protection of cows.

Trough the resolution on untouchability the Conference appealed to the Hindus to oppose the practice of untouchability wherever it is found and to create a proper atmosphere against it. Government appreciates this resolution as our accepted policy is to eradicate this evil practice expeditiously.