

completed 6 months continuous employment, when they became entitled to temporary status and regular pay scales. Such labourers have now been made eligible for temporary status and regular pay scales on completion of 4 months continuous employment.

- (ii) Previously, Casual Labourers employed on projects were paid daily wages at local market rates during their entire service on the project. Now casual labourers employed continuously on projects for six months are paid daily wages at 1/30th of the minimum of the appropriate pay scale plus Dearness Allowance.
- (iii) Such of the above casual labourers as are governed by the Minimum Wages Act were earlier paid wages at the minimum notified rates till such time as they qualified for regular scales or for 1/30th of the minimum of the regular scales; during this period these labourers are now paid wages at local market rates or the minimum notified rates, whichever are higher.

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

3724. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high-power Indian Delegation led by him left for New York in the second week of April, 1976 to participate in the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea;
- (b) whether the delegation had seven alternative representatives to cover every aspect to be discussed in this fourth session;
- (c) whether India attended the previous three sessions also; and

(d) if so, the outcome of those previous sessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) The fourth session of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea was held in New York from March 15 to May 7, 1976. All the members of the Indian delegation to the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, did not leave for New York at the same time. Some members had left for New York in the second week of March and some others joined the Delegation later. The leader of the Indian Delegation, namely, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, left for New York on the 12th of April, 1976.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The first session of the Conference which was held in New York in December 1973 dealt with the organisational and procedural questions. The second session of the Conference held in Caracas, Venezuela from June to August, 1974 dealt with concrete proposals made by the delegations in the three main Committees and the plenary session of the Conference, as well as in the preparatory work of the Conference. The third session of the Conference was held in Geneva from March to May 1975. At the second and the third sessions, the Conference held extensive discussions. Taking these proposals and discussions into account, the Chairman of the three main Committees of the Conference prepared at the end of the Third Session in May 1975 informal Single Negotiating Texts on subjects covered within the mandate of their respective committees for further negotiations and with a view to finalising a comprehensive convention on the Law of the Sea. These texts were considered at the Fourth Session held in New York between March and May 1976.