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(c) No, Sir.

Conference of Muslim States

1454. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is going to convene a conference of Muslim States to discuss the Kashmir dispute;

(b) the reaction of such States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to request these States not to meddle in India's internal affairs?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The Government has seen press reports to this effect. No confirmation is available regarding these reports and it has not been considered necessary to make any formal approaches. However, Government is opposed to any reactionary step to introduce religious emotions in the consideration of political questions, and hope that people in these countries will not be misled by false Pakistani propoganda. Government take steps to keep the Government and people of these countries informed of the reality of Indo-Pakistan conflict and the secular character of the Indian democracy which guarantees equality of treatment and individual liberty to all its citizens.

Fair Price Shops in Industrial Establishments

1455. **Shri Brij Raj Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 423 on the 6th September, 1965 and state:

(a) the response of the defaulting industrial establishments in the month of opening of Fair Price Shops for their employees till the end of September, 1965; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce any legislation for the purpose in the light of their response?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Up-to-date 2329 consumers' co-operative stores and fair price shops (1779 consumers' co-operative stores and 550 fair price shops) are functioning in 3842 industrial establishments. In addition there are 162 branch stores,

(b) A coverage of about 61 per cent has been achieved so far. It is proposed to consider the question of undertaking legislation after watching the progress in setting up such co-operatives and fair price shops for another six months.

Accident in Dhori Colliery

1456. **Shri R. S. Pandey:**
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inquiry Commission constituted by Government to inquire into the causes of explosion in Dhori Colliery has since completed its work and submitted a report to Government;

(b) if so, the findings of the Inquiry Commission; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the light of Commission's findings?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Yes.

(b) According to the Report of the Commission the main cause of the accident was fire-damp explosion initiating a series of coal-dust explosions, the seat of ignition being near the dead body of a worker, presumed to be a haulage khalasi, found in 15 south level of BI. 10A incline of the mine. The contributory causes of the accident were: (a) lack of ventilation plus the use of naked light in the mine, and (b) coal dust and the failure to treat it properly to prevent liberation and accumulation.

(c) The Report is under examination.