

Participation Report - 96th Session of Indian Labour Conference held from 29th May to 15th June, 2007 in Geneva.

India is one of the founder members of the International Labour Organization. International Labour Organization is considered as one of the specialized agencies under the United Nations (UN System). The organization, however, has a unique character because of its tripartite composition. At every level in the Organization, Governments are associated with social partners, i.e. workers and employers. The aims of ILO are embodied in ILO Constitution and the declaration of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia declaration reaffirms the fundamental principles such as:-

- (i) Labour is not a commodity.
- (ii) Freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress.
- (iii) Poverty any where constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere.
- (iv) War against want is required to be carried with unrelucting figure within each nation and by continuance and concentrated international efforts.

At present, 180 countries are the members of ILO. Nearly 3,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from ILO's 180 member States participated in the Conference.

2. The Organization's supreme body is International Labour Conference which meets annually in Geneva and to which all member states have a constitutional obligation to send a tripartite delegation. The principal functions of the Conference include adoption of International Labour Standards, general discussions on the issues falling within its field of competence, approval of ILO budget - every

2nd year and the election of Governing Body - every 3rd year.

3. The 96th Session of the ILC was held from May 29 to June 15, 2007. India had been actively participating in the ILC since its inception. As in the previous year, a tripartite delegation lead by Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State of Labour & Employment (IC) was deputed to attend the 96th Session of ILC. The composition of Indian delegation was as under:-

COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S TRIPARTITE DELEGATION

VISITING MINISTERS		Period of stay (excluding transit period)	
1.	Shri Oscar Fernandes MOS(IC) for L&E	Visiting Minister & Leader of the delegation	11-15 June 2007
2.	Shri B.N. Shetty OSD to MOS(L&E)	Accompanying MOS(L&E)	11-15 June 2007
3.	Shri Prithbi Majhi, Labour Minister, Assam	Visiting Minister	30 May-8 June 2007
4.	Shri T.M. Anbarasan, # Labour Minister, Tamil Nadu	Visiting Minister	30 May-8 June 2007
5.	Shri Mrinal Banerjee, Labour Minister, West Bengal	Visiting Minister	30 May-8 June 2007

GOVERNMENT GROUP

1.	Smt. Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E)	Delegate	11-15 June, 2007
2.	Shri S. Krishnan, Addl. Secretary	Delegate	29 May-5 June, 2007
3.	Shri S.K. Srivastava, Jt. Secretary	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
4.	Shri Sharda Prasad, JS & DGE&T	Adviser	30 May-8 June, 2007

5.	Shri A.V. Singh, Director	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Hari K. Mathur, Under Secretary	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
7.	Shri M.K.R. Nair, Jt. Commissioner (Fisheries), D/o Animal Husbandry	Adviser	30 May-8 June 2007

Shri T.M. Anbarasan, Labour Minister, Tamil Nadu was accompanied by Shri Ramesh Kumar Khanna, Secretary (Labour), Tamil Nadu.

WORKERS' GROUP

1.	Shri Hasmukh Lal Gaurishanker Dave, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	Delegate	29 May-15 June, 2007
2.	Shri C.K. Sajinarayanan, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
3.	Shri N.M. Adyanthaya Vice President, INTUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
4.	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Vice President, INTUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
5.	Shri Swadesh Dev Roye, National Secretary, CITU	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Tampan Thomas, President, HMS	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
7.	Shri Deshkar Manohar Madho, Vice President, AITUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
8.	Shri P. Sankar Saha, General Secretary, UTUC(LS)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

EMPLOYERS' GROUP

1.	Shri K.G. Baal Krishnan, President, AIOE (CIE)	Delegate	29 May-15 June, 2007
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2.	Shri N. Venkataramani, President, EFI (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
3	Dr. S.M. Dewan, Director General, SCOPE (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-8 June, 2007
(b)	Shri S. Behuria, Chairman, CIE	Adviser	9-15 June, 2007
4.	Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, EFI (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
5.	Shri B.P. Pant, Secretary, CIE	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Babulal B. Todi, Ex-President, AIMO	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
7.	Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta, General Secretary, LUB	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
8.	Shri Mohit Gandhi, Dy. Director, CII	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

4. From the Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, Shri S. Pawan Singh, Permanent representative, Shri M.S. Grover, Dy. Permanent Representative and Shri V.K. Trivedi, Counselor, also attended the Conference with the rest of the delegation.

5. India is commitment and concerned towards the principles of tripartism and democratic values, is reflected from the above mentioned list of delegates. If we compare with the list of Indian delegates with other countries' delegates, it is proved beyond iota of doubt; the representation of social partners from India, in the 96th Session of ILC is extremely satisfactory. A comparative chart is as under:

Countries	Govt. Delegates	Govt. Advisers	Employers' delegates	Employer Advisers	Workers' Delegates	Workers' Advisers
Afganistan	2	6			1	
Bangladesh	2	2	1	3	1	1
China	2	16	1	8	1	8

Iran	2	9	1	3	1	4
Iraq	2	6	1	1	1	1
Republic of Korea	2	12	1	7	1	6
Malaysia	2	9	1	1	1	1
Maynmar	2	10	1		1	
Nepal	2	2	1	1	1	8
Pakistan	2	2	1		1	
Singapore	2	8	1	2	1	7
Sri Lanka	2	8	1		1	7
India	2	9	1	8	1	7

Report of the Credential Committee is placed at flag 'A'.

6. The Conference, in its first session, is supposed to elect a President of the Conference, but due to some geo-political reasons, the President of the Conference could not be elected in the first sitting. There are 4 geographical groups in the ILO which are giving representation on the basis of rotation. This time, President of the Conference was to be elected from African Group. Initially, Cameroon, Congo and Nigeria expressed their willingness to participate in the election for the President of the Conference. Since only one person was to be elected, consultation among the groups started to sort out the issue. In ILO consensus is always given priority to election. However, after consultation with other countries Cameroon withdrew from the contest and election by way of voting was conducted between Congo and Nigeria. When it comes to vote, India voted in favour of Congo as per the advice of Ministry of external Affairs. Since the required votes for the majority was not casted, no one was declared elected. Finally, after a lot of consultation and negotiation Mr. Kastriot Sulka, Deputy Minister of labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Albania was elected as President of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference. Government Group nominated Mr. Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos (Brazil), employer's and workers' group nominated - Mr. Michel Barde (Switzerland) and Mr. Marc Blondel, respectively.

7. The agenda before the 96th Session of ILC was as follows:-

Agenda of the Conference:

Standing Items:

1. (a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director General.
- (b) Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- II. Programme and Budget Proposals for 2008-09 and other questions.
- III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

Items placed on the agenda by the conference or the Governing Body.

- IV. Work in the fishing sector - Standard setting, with a view to the adoption of a Convention and a Recommendation
- V. Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization - General discussion.
- VI. The promotion of sustainable enterprises - General discussion.

8. Discussion on agenda item No. 1 took place at the preliminary session of the Conference. Other agenda items were discussed in committees and all committees were attended by the representatives of Indian delegation. Except Finance Committee, the basis of these committees was tripartite in nature. The Finance Committee composes of Government representatives only and dealt with programme and budget questions.

9. Two other committees were also appointed, i.e., (i) Selection Committee which arranged programmes of the Conference and fixed the time and agenda for the preliminary sittings and (ii) the second committee was credential committee which dealt with matters concerning credential of delegates.

Reports of the Chair Person of the Governing Body and the Director General

10. As usual, Chairman of the Governing Body presented the written report to the Conference on the work of the Governing Body during the preceding year. This year, the report was made available to delegates quite late. The Conference had before it the report of the Director General of the International Labour Office. Report 1(a) were in two parts. The first part was on the theme chosen by the Director General and the second by way of annexed on the situation of workers of occupied Arab territories. Both the reports are annexed and were discussed in the sittings which started from 3rd week, i.e. 11th June to 14th June, 2007. As in previous years, the time limit on the speeches in reply to the reports was set of maximum of 5 minutes.

11. While intervening on the report of the Chairperson the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Shri Oscar Fernandes highlighted the achievements of Government of India in the context of the contents of report. He asserted that "the ILO in recent times has been emphasizing the social dimensions of globalization, sustainable development, productive and equitable markets, fair rules and greater accountability to people. India has a well established democratic system of consulting stakeholders. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government also mandates tripartism and consensus. The goal of India's 11th Five year Plan is faster and more inclusive growth, epitomizing the social dimensions. The environment for inclusive growth has been crafted by

flagship schemes, such as the Bharat Nirman Plan aimed at providing infrastructure and basic amenities in villages; the National Rural Health Mission providing primary healthcare; the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years along with the mid day meal scheme which provides cooked food to 109 million young school children; and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, which provides basic services to the urban poor and to slum dwellers. Various other schemes relating to road connectivity, housing, waged and self-employment, drinking water and the development of backward areas are in operation. These measures are carried out with the active involvement of rural, local governments called the Panchayati Raj, whose 3.4 million elected representatives, nearly 42 percent of whom are women, make India the most intensely democratic country in the world."

12. He asserted that India has always supported ILO when it has taken up new challenges in the past, and India would continue to support ILO in future in its endeavor to promote workers' interests.

The intervention of Hon'ble Labour Minister was highly appreciated; a copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'B'.

13. Secretary (L&E) made a forceful intervention on Director General's report. She complimented the Director General's report for advancing the agenda of Decent Work and Tripartism. She asserted "globalization has led to a process of increasing economic interdependence between all countries in the developed and developing world. Over a period of time it has been observed that globalization has had a mixed impact. Therefore, we have to make a concerted effort to maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its negative outcome. This can be done if, as part of the global efforts to promote Decent Work, we forge closer links with the efforts of ILO to give an impetus to an 'inclusive' growth strategy and adopt special measures for

those persons who would normally get excluded. At the same time without growth we cannot generate the resources needed for investment in social and physical infrastructure. That is why India's goal during the 11th Plan is 'Faster and more inclusive Growth'."

14. "A better labour market assessment across countries presupposes a common denominator of definitions of crucial concepts of unemployment, wages etc. Different definitions often lead to different and results for the same process thus making the path of assimilation of varying labour standards into a single benchmark, so much more difficult. A major initiative on the subject, across nations would be very opportune. It is also necessary to integrate rural and urban development based on the population dynamics in each country."

The intervention of Secretary (L&E) was also highly appreciated. The details of her intervention are placed at flag 'C'.

Global Report under the follow up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

15. The Global Report is a part of follow up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (Declaration). Every year the global report reviews one of the four principles of the Declaration. These four principles of Declaration are as under:

- (a) Freedom of association and effective recognition of right to collective bargaining.
- (b) Elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour.
- (c) The effective abolition of child labour.
- (d) The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

16. Its goal is to provide a dynamic global picture relating to each category of fundamental principles and rights, noted during the preceding 4-year period. It should also serve as a basis (a) for an assessment of the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the ILO and (b) to highlight future priorities for technical cooperation.

17. This year, the Global Report examined the fourth principle of the Declaration, namely, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

18. What is very significant this year is that this Global Report was the end of the second full cycle of Global Reports. After this year, each of the four fundamental principles would have been the subject of two Global Reports.

19. Shri S.K. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, participated in the deliberations on the Global Report and asserted "Government of India had always been against any sort of negative discrimination. India's Constitution provides for equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, race, sex and place of birth as basic fundamental rights. It also provides for equal remuneration to both men and women. Special laws have been enacted to effectively realize this equality across the board. To ensure equality in the work place the Government has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Mines Act, 1951; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Plantation Labour Act, 1951; the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 etc. There have been concerted efforts to enforce the relevant statutes throughout the country. We have a very active judiciary, a free press and a vibrant civil society that ensure proper implementation of these Acts and statutes." A copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'D'.

Programme and Budget Proposals for 2008-09 and other questions.

20. In its meeting in March, 2007, the Governing Body endorsed a zero real growth programme level of US \$ 638,198,183, estimated at an exchange rate of 1.25 Swiss francs to the US dollar. The final exchange rate and the corresponding US dollar level of the budget and Swiss franc assessments will be determined by the Conference on the recommendation of the Finance Committee of Government representatives. The recommendation of the Governing Body for a zero real growth budget was not supported by five countries, which would have preferred a zero nominal growth.

21. The Office had again carried out the forward exchange contracts for the ILO's US dollar requirements for the 2008-09 biennium. The current appropriate figures are as under:

Budget of Expenditure	641 730 000
Budget of Income	641 730 000
Budget rate of exchange	1.23
Equivalent budget total in Swiss francs	789 327 900

When the Budget was put up before the ILC for its adoption, it was passed by majority. Some of the members of IMEC countries like UK, USA, Germany, France, Japan, Newzealand and Australia abstained from voting.

Committee on Application of Standards (Conventions and Recommendations)

22. One of the standing and powerful Committees of the International Labour Conference is the Committee on Application of Conventions and Recommendations. The proceedings of this Committee provided an opportunity to the representatives of the Governments, employers and

workers to meet and examine the reports submitted by the Member States on the manner on which obligations under the ratified conventions and recommendations are being implemented in the national law and practice. Although it is highly technical committee, it has also political focus. Traditionally the workers have used this Committee as a showcase for alleged abuses and to highlight unpopular national policies.

23. The Conference Committee on the Application of Standards considers Report III, parts IA and IB which have been previously prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. In an opening general discussion, the Committee reviews the matters covered by the general part of the Committee of Experts' Report. Subsequently, the Committee examines part IB of the Report which consists of a General Survey (separate volume). This year's General Survey is entitled "Eradication of Forced Labour" and it looks at - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).

24. The General Survey allows the Committee to review national law and practice in member States, to examine difficulties raised by governments as standing in the way of the application of the instruments, clarify their scope and indicate possible means of overcoming obstacles to their implementation. This is a say for employers to make known their concerns on the particular subject under review.

25. The issue of forced labour was also discussed in the Committee of Application of Standards under the purview of 'general survey'. Shri S. Krishnan, Additional Secretary participated in the deliberations of the Committee and asserted that India, as a country, has always been concerned about the abolition of bonded labour, "We have not only ratified the related ILO convention Nos. 29 and 105 but also made abolition of

bonded labour system a part of our 20 Point Programme which reflects the priorities of the Government. Item 4 of the 20 Point Programme reads as under:

"Bonded Labour System wherever it exists is illegal and shall be abolished by law".

26. After initial discussions the Committee examined the individual cases. This year, India was figured in the list of individual cases. One of the trade unions, Hind Mazdoor Sabha made a complaint to the ILO directly without referring this issue to the Government. The intention of the complaint was, though India has ratified Convention No. 111 but the provisions of the Conventions are not being fully implemented in the country. Additional Secretary, Shri S. Krishnan and Joint Secretary Shri S.K. Srivastava participated in the deliberations of the Committee. Shri Krishnan, Addl. Secy., made a detailed intervention on the issues, raised in the complaint against the Government of India. He informed the August gathering "Constitution of India under Article 16 provides for Equality of Employment. However, positive discrimination is followed by providing reservation in government Services in the matter of direct recruitment, promotion, etc. to socially disadvantaged groups. There have been indications of occupational diversification taking place among scheduled castes in recent years. The percentage of members of scheduled castes depending on agriculture has been declining and there is evidence of their shifting to urban areas for livelihood. The share of agricultural labourers among scheduled castes has also declined substantially over a period of one decade. Government of India has taken up various initiatives for the upliftment and empowerment of the schedule castes. National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation provide credit facilities to beneficiaries for income generating activities. The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations in the States identify and motivate the targeted group to undertake economic development schemes and help the targeted group by

providing credit and missing inputs. In furtherance of Article 17 of our Constitution by which untouchability was abolished and its practice in any form forbidden, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 was enacted in order to enforce the said Constitutional provision. The provisions of the Act extend to whole of India. Further, to check atrocities against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was brought into force with the objective of preventing the commission of offences and for the relief and rehabilitations of the victims of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

27. As far as manual scavengers in the country are concerned, he asserted that India is fully committed to eradicate this social evil from the country. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, monitors the progress of implementation of national action plan for total eradication by 2007. He provided detailed answer to each and every issue raised in the complaint. His detailed intervention is placed at flag 'E'. Several delegates from other countries supported India, on the issue of discrimination. Commitment expressed by the most populous and largest democracy of the world was appreciated. They hope that this social evil would be totally eradicated from the country.

28. He also informed the August gathering about the implementation of several schemes in the country for the abolition of bonded labour/ forced labour from the country. He also asserted that this problem can be overcome if free movement of legitimate labour is encouraged internationally. He asserted "This also relates to free movement of labour. We are all aware that whereas capital is by and large free to move, labour isn't. Once market access becomes available, opportunities for labour will increase and this in itself will mitigate the possibility of forced labour. We are glad that the 'widening gap between the rich and the poor'

finds a mention in para 197 of the document on "Eradication of Forced Labour". However, we believe that issue needs to be discussed at length in the context of denial of market access which is one of the primary causes of this 'widening gap' resulting in deprivation of opportunities to workers in developing countries, like India. It is our view that ILO should also focus on creating an international environment in which there are greater opportunities for the workforce not only within their own country but also in other countries for their products and services." A copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'F'.

International Labour Standards:

29. The Committee on the Application of Standards again held a special sitting on the application by Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), following up measures taken in the context of Article 33 of the ILO Constitution.

30. The Committee expressed its profound concern at the forced labour situation in Myanmar, as reflected in the observation of the Committee of Experts. It concluded that none of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry had yet been implemented, and the imposition of forced labour continued to be widespread, particularly by the army to which specific instructions should be issued. The Committee urged the Government to implement all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

31. The Committee took due note of the fact that the complaint mechanism on forced labour continued to function, and that the authorities were investigating the cases referred to them by the Liaison Officer and taking action against those officials found to have illegally imposed forced labour. It was observed, however, that in a number of cases the action taken had been limited to

administrative measures rather than the required criminal penalties.

32. The Committee underlined the need for the Liaison Officer to have sufficient staff resources available to him as provided for in the Supplementary Understanding signed with Myanmar in February, 2007. It noted with concern that the Government had not yet agreed to the appointment of an international staff member to assist the Liaison Officer, even though the workload continued to increase, and urged that the necessary cooperation and facilities be given without delay.

33. The Indian delegate who participated in the deliberations on the prevalence of forced labour environment made an intervention in favour of Myanmar. The intervention was prepared by Permanent Mission of India (PMI), Geneva in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. It was asserted that ILO should continue to support Myanmar for eradication of forced labour from the country, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'G'.

34. The case of Belarus also came up for discussion. The Committee expressed his concern about the lack of freedom of association in Belarus. The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus who was present in the Committee briefed the Committee about the steps taken by his Government to ensure right of freedom of association. The Committee recalled the imperative need for the Government to act without delay to ensure that all workers' and employers' organizations would function freely and without interference, and obtain registration without any problem in the country.

35. The Committee also noted the concerns raised, relating to the draft Trade Union Law. In this respect, the Committee urged the Government to vigorously pursue its consultations with all social partners in the country, and its cooperation with the ILO, with a view of making

the legislative changes required to bring the law and practice into full conformity with the Convention and the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

36. Welcoming the Government's statement that it would continue to cooperate with the national social partners and that it had invited a high level ILO mission immediately following the Conference, the Committee expressed the firm hope that significant progress in ensuring full respect for freedom of association would be made without any further delay. In order to appropriately monitor developments in this regard, the Committee recommended that the Governing Body reconsider this matter in November, 2007. Indian delegate supported the efforts made by government of Belarus, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'H'.

37. The issue of violation of freedom of association and protection of right to organize pertaining to Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was also discussed in the Committee. The Indian delegate supported the efforts of Government of Venezuela and made an intervention prepared by PMI in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. It was asserted "We have always encouraged dialogue and cooperation between member states and the ILO to resolve outstanding issues. We believe that the steps taken by the Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage with the social partners, at the domestic level and its efforts to continue consultation with ILO, within the constitutional and legal framework of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, are encouraging signs.

38. We, therefore, welcome the willingness of Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to engage with ILO. We believe that an objective and transparent assessment in the present context will go a long way, in consolidating the process of cooperation and dialogue between the ILO and the Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela. A copy of the statement is placed below at flag 'I'.

39. United States of America was also asked to appear before the Committee on Application of Standards for violation of provisions of Convention No. 144. Con. No. 144 deals with tripartite consultation. India has also ratified this Convention. As per the provisions of Con. No. 144 tripartite consultation with social partners is mandatory. Convention No. 144 is -

- (a) Convention No. 144 is very flexible, promotional instrument. It does not lay out precise requirements as to methods of application, but instead provides wide latitude for adopting procedures that are suited to national conditions and practice.
- (ii) The purpose of consultation is to assist the government in reaching a decision for which it alone has responsibility. The Convention does not require either negotiation or agreement.
- (iii) Consultations do not have to be initiated by the Government.
- (iv) The Convention does not require an annual meeting or, for that matter, any meetings at all. Consultations can be based either on an exchange of communications or on discussions within tripartite bodies. Furthermore, although the Convention indicates that consultation shall be undertaken at least once a year, this does not require annual consultations on every point of Article 5(1).

40. American Government asserted - "A government's commitment to tripartism cannot be measured solely by the number of tripartite meetings it has convened. The Committee of Experts has frequently pointed out that the mere fact a meeting was held is not a guarantee that the parties were engaged in a genuine tripartite consultative process. The United States, however, has a

long history of respecting tripartism, both domestically and in our representation at the ILO. On going dialogue is a significant feature of our industrial relations system and our policy process."

American Government submitted a written reply on the consultative mechanism in their country. A copy of their reply is placed at flag 'J'.

Work in The Fishing Sector - Standard Setting, Single Discussion, with a view to the adoption of a Convention and a Recommendation.

41. In June 2005, at the end of the second discussion, a draft Convention and a draft Recommendation on Work in the Fishing Sector were submitted to the Conference. As they had maintained throughout the process, employers reiterated that the emerging draft Convention did not meet the objectives that had been established for a new Convention. They expressed strong reservations on a number of provisions and especially on the detailed, technical and prescriptive Annex on crew accommodation which, in their view, should have been included in a recommendation and not a Convention.

42. Several governments, especially Asian, also expressed reservations on various provisions of the proposed text and in particular on Annex III, its Gross tonnage (GT)/ Length Overall (LOA) conversion table and its provisions on Design and Construction.

43. At its 19th sitting, the Conference held final votes on the proposed texts. The Recommendation was adopted, but the Convention was not.

44. Following the result of the vote, the Conference adopted a motion requesting the Governing Body to place on the agenda of the 96th Session of the Conference in 2007 as item concerning work in the fishing sector based

on the Report of the Committee on the Fishing Sector of the 93rd Session.

45. Two year after the failure of this second discussion, the main issues to be discussed are: medical examination, manning and hour of rest, private employment agencies, fisher's work agreement and Annex III on accommodation et GT/LOA conversion table, to mention only the most controversial ones.

46. Delegates gave an overwhelming support to new standards designed to improve conditions and million of men and women working in the fishing sector. The new standards have been designed to ensure that the workers in the fishing sector would get occupational safety, health and medical care while on the sea; sick or injured fishers would receive care ashore; receive sufficient rest for their health and safety; have protection of work agreement and have the same social security protection as other workers. The Committee was attended Shri N.K. Nair, Additional Commissioner (Fishing). India supported the new Convention and Recommendation, a copy of the report is placed at flag 'K'. When the item came for adoption it was passed by majority. The vote casted in this respect are as under:

(a) Convention:

Total vote in favour	Against	Abstentions	Quorum	Majority
437	2	22	296	293

(b) Recommendation:

Total vote in favour	Against	Abstentions	Quorum	Majority
443	-	19	296	296

Strengthening of ILO's capacity to assist its members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization:

47. With a view to meet the challenges of the globalization this agenda item was introduced. The report envisaged a focused debate on four areas.

- (i) How to better integrate the Decent Work Agenda into the work of the international Labour conference and Governing Body, as well as finding ways to help member States better integrate the strategic objectives of the ILO into their national social policy development.
- (ii) How to enhance the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) process by ensuring a better link between objectives set and resource allocation, as well as by indentifying a means to measure the impact of DWCP.
- (iii) How to enhance co-operation with other regional and international agencies so that more consideration is taken of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in their policy work.
- (iv) Finally, the elaboration of a possible "Authoritative Statement" as a means to confirm the role of the ILO in coming years. The paper acknowledges that this is not an issue for debate this year, but should be borne in mind if it is felt such a Statement could enhance the ILO in the wider debates on globalization.

48. The Report reflects the green lines which are identified as one of the major recommendation of the report. It recognizes that the debate can only proceed successfully on the basis of consensus. Similarly, it also recognizes the role of the Governing Body in identifying the modalities that may be necessary to give effect to the consensus emerging from this discussion, rather than the Conference itself.

49. This Committee was attended by Shri A.V. Singh, Director and Shri H.K. Mathur, Under Secretary. He supported the efforts made by ILO to face the new challenges of globalized world. A detailed intervention made in this regard is placed at flag 'M'. When the report came for adoption the conclusions drawn by the Committee was adopted in ILC, a copy of the report is placed at flag 'L'

Promotion of sustainable enterprises - General discussion.

50. This is one of the important committee dealing with employment and was attended by Shri Sharda Prasad, Director General, Employment & Training. General discussion on sustainable enterprises provided an opportunity to:

- (b) show the relevance of the ILO to the business community;
- (c) establish some basic principles required to create 'sustainable enterprises';
- (d) direct the work of ILO towards a more pro-private sector development direction and, in this respect, identify specific areas of work for the ILO;
- (e) reposition the ILO's work on 'employment generation' towards a more practical focus;
- (f) secure support for key employment programmes of employer interest in the ILO;
- (g) highlight the importance of employers' organizations as key actors in advocating for effective reforms of the business environment at national level;
- (h) identify areas where policy coherence between international organizations (such as the World Bank, etc.) can be achieved in a very practical and operative way, for the good of enterprises;

- (i) reinforce the importance of the private sector in job creation and poverty reduction strategies (a role now broadly recognized by the international community)

51. Shri Sharda Prasad, DGE&T participated in the deliberations of Committee and made several interventions at appropriate times. A detail report about participation will be separately submitted by DGE&T.

52. In its **conclusions**, the Conference Committee on Sustainable Enterprises said that sustainable enterprises are a principal source of growth, wealth creation, employment and decent work. To realize these gains, a conducive environment for sustainable enterprises is essential, including peace and political stability, good governance and the rule of law, social dialogue, respect for universal human rights and international labour standards, entrepreneurial culture, sound economic policies, fair competition and access to financial services, physical and technological infrastructure, education and training, and environmental sustainability.

A copy of the report adopted in the ILC is placed at flag 'M'.

NAM Labour Ministers' Conference and other activities:

53. In addition to the session of Conference as well as Conference Committee there were several other activities connected to the ILO. NAM Labour Ministers' Conference was one of the major events during the Conference. The Conference was attended by the Hon'ble Labour Minister, JS(SKS) and officials of Indian Mission. The theme of the NAM Labour Ministers' Conference was reform in the ILC. The Hon'ble LEM addressed the August gathering and said "While we, the member countries of Non-Aligned Movement are very dissimilar in size, culture, traditions and races, our philosophy to

promote international peace combined with our emphasis on accelerating inclusive growth for all sections of the society has been a linking factor. In this era of globalization, there is need to realign ourselves, in such a way that we are able to maximize the benefits from this process. Globalization, after all, is not an economic process alone. It has wide social, political, environmental and cultural ramifications. In this new world, we must continue to play a positive role in international relations and strive for peace and development. NAM must develop new linkages and relationships with the multilateral organizations such as the ILO if it wishes to play a role that is commensurate with its size and population. Our size provides us with leverage in our efforts to exert influence in the international arena. We must capitalize on it and work together for our mutual interests”.

54. It has been observed by some Member countries of the ILO that selection of cases by the Committee of Application of Standards is not transparent. Countries especially, developing countries are required to appear before the Committee again and again. Many cases are pending against developed countries but they are seldom asked to appear before the Committee, it requires transparency. Hon'ble LEM made in his speech, that transparency and objectiveness in the selection of cases are perhaps the most important aspect of any supervisory body. He asserted “While we appreciate the efforts of the Committee in ensuring the rights of the workers especially in the unorganized sector, we are of the opinion that it fails to take a holistic view of core issues. There is also a lack of appreciation for cultural diversities and historical tradition of member countries in the discussion held in the Committee on Application of Standards”. The intervention made by Hon'ble LEM was highly appreciated by the other participants. A copy of his statement is placed at flag 'N'.

55. The Asia and Pacific region is playing an important role in the ILO for coordinating the interests and

concerns of the region in respect of the matters under discussion in the ILO Governing Body as well as in the International Labour Conference. The Indian representative actively participated in the informal consultation with in the group as well as in the inter-regional meetings. This year, Asia and Pacific region has convened a meeting of Labour Ministers on the issue of occupational safety and health. Hon'ble Labour Minister addressed the meeting of Labour Ministers. The text of his address is placed at flag 'O'. China was the coordinator of Asia and Pacific Groups, after completion of its term, Iran was elected as new coordinator for the ASPAG.

56. At the initiative of Hon'ble LEM India has convened a meeting of Labour Ministers of SAARC countries on HIV/AIDS in the world of work. This meeting was attended by all the member of SAARC countries except Bangladesh. Secretary (L&E) while welcoming the August gathering informed that the stigma and discrimination are a combination of social processes and hence challenging stigma and discrimination requires social action to change the context within which individuals and communities respond to HIV/AIDS rather than just individual action as stigma and discrimination are products of social rather than individual processes. Creating a climate in which stigma and discrimination are no longer tolerated, therefore, requires social and community mobilization and empowerment of marginalized groups to resist stigma and discrimination. There is need for structural interventions, specially laws and policies that protect the rights of people living with AIDS and those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A copy of his speech is placed at flag 'R'.

57. Hon'ble Minister for Labour and employment asserted "The problem of HIV/AIDS is so huge that it cannot be tackled in isolation. There is an urgent need for some concrete collective efforts. While all of us are trying to deal with the problem in our own ways, in the

best possible manner. I firmly believe that there is huge scope of learning in this area by sharing our experiences. With this objective in my mind, we thought of taking advantage of our presence in Geneva during the International Labour Conference of ILO and decided to have an experience sharing meeting”.

58. On this occasion, he also introduced Country Report of India and requested other Members of SAARC countries to have a Country Report on the issue of HIV/AIDS. A copy of the Country Report is placed at flag 'P'.

59. After giving a brief description of activities of Labour Ministry in regard to tackling the problem of HIV/AIDS in the country, he requested other representatives that this is the appropriate time to come together and wage a war against HIV/AIDS and reduces its adverse consequences on social, labour and economic development. He pleaded that “As you know, all the SAARC countries are reporting cases of HIV/AIDS and the epidemic is spreading rapidly in most of the countries. On the basis of available information, it can be assumed that over 5 million estimated HIV infected people are living within the region. The danger of SAARC Region rests in the low 'general population' prevalence rates, which may be undermining the gravity of the situation. Such low rates conceal dangerously elevated 'concentrated' infection rates within high-risk groups such as CSW, MSM, IDU, etc. The fact is that despite the low prevalence rates within this region, it is apprehended that HIV/AIDS will spread farther and faster than in any other region globally. The existence of high-risk group behaviours, migrant workers, truckers, mobile populations in search of sexual pleasure, drugs and commerce, the unequal status of women, the lack of population awareness of 'basic' risks and prevention strategies, the trafficking of women and young girls within the sex trade, the high rates of STIs etc., all make for an explosion of HIV/AIDS within the region. We need to take

cognizance of this and take immediate action to strengthen HIV/AIDS response in the world of work in the SAARC countries. As the prevalence is still low in these countries, we have the last window of opportunity to avert the epidemic through a concerned action." The text of his address is placed at flag 'Q'. Detailed report on this issue will be submitted separately.

60. Similarly, the ILO has also convened an informal tripartite meeting at Ministerial level on the issue of "Strategy for growth, employment and social protection". This meeting was held under the chairmanship of German Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. Secretary (L&E) attended the meeting and made a statement on social security issue. The intervention of Secretary (L&E) was highly appreciated, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'R'

61. During the ILC several bilateral meetings were also held. Hon'ble Labour & Employment Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes met Mr. Sabah Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs & Labour, Kuwait and Minister of Labour, Nepal. They exchanged note on several issues including protection of interests of migrant labour in Kuwait. Mr. Xiayoi Hu, Vice Minister, Labour and social security, China met Mrs Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E) and discussed several issues pertaining to labour and laws and labour reforms. The issue of extension of MOU which was signed in the year 2001 was also discussed. He expressed his desire for the extension of MOU which is in force till 24th Oct., 2008. He also requested Mrs. Pillai to visit China along with colleagues of Ministry of Labour and Employment for strengthening the relationship between two countries.

62. Mr. Muntefering. Franz, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany, along with delegation of 4 officials met Mrs Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E) and discussed several issues pertaining to social security. Mrs. Pillai apprised him about the functioning of social

security system in the country and also informed the delegation that the Govt. of India is going to introduce the Social Security Bill on the first date of Monsoon Session of the Parliament. Mr. Franz invited Mrs. Pillai to visit his country to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

63. The Conference hosted seven eminent guest speakers, including H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, H.E. Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairperson of the African Union, His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain, the most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica, H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, His Royal Highness Felipe de Borbon, Prince of Asturias, and H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

A complete set of record discussion is placed at flag 'S'.

(A.V. Singh)
Director

JS(SKS)

Participation Report - 96th Session of Indian Labour Conference held from 29th May to 15th June, 2007 in Geneva.

India is one of the founder members of the International Labour Organization. International Labour Organization is considered as one of the specialized agencies under the United Nations (UN System). The organization, however, has a unique character because of its tripartite composition. At every level in the Organization, Governments are associated with social partners, i.e. workers and employers. The aims of ILO are embodied in ILO Constitution and the declaration of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia declaration reaffirms the fundamental principles such as:-

- (v) Labour is not a commodity.
- (vi) Freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress.
- (vii) Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere.
- (viii) War against want is required to be carried with unrelenting vigour within each nation and by continuance and concentrated international efforts.

At present, 180 countries are the members of ILO. Nearly 3,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from ILO's 180 member States participated in the Conference.

2. The Organization's supreme body is International Labour Conference which meets annually in Geneva and to which all member states have a constitutional obligation to send a tripartite delegation. The principal functions of the Conference

include adoption of International Labour Standards, general discussions on the issues falling within its field of competence, approval of ILO budget - every 2nd year and the election of Governing Body - every 3rd year.

3. The 96th Session of the ILC was held from May 29 to June 15, 2007. India had been actively participating in the ILC since its inception. As in the previous year, a tripartite delegation lead by Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State of Labour & Employment (IC) was deputed to attend the 96th Session of ILC. The composition of Indian delegation was as under:-

COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S TRIPARTITE DELEGATION

VISITING MINISTERS	Period of stay (excluding transit period)
1. Shri Oscar Fernandes MOS(IC) for L&E	Visiting Minister & Leader of the delegation 11-15 June 2007
2. Shri B.N. Shetty OSD to MOS(L&E)	Accompanying MOS(L&E) 11-15 June 2007
3. Shri Prithbi Majhi, Labour Minister, Assam	Visiting Minister 30 May-8 June 2007
4. Shri T.M. Anbarasan, # Labour Minister, Tamil Nadu	Visiting Minister 30 May-8 June 2007
5. Shri Mrinal Banerjee, Labour Minister, West Bengal	Visiting Minister 30 May-8 June 2007

GOVERNMENT GROUP

1.	Smt. Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E)	Delegate	11-15 June, 2007
2.	Shri S. Krishnan, Addl. Secretary	Delegate	29 May-5 June, 2007
3.	Shri S.K. Srivastava, Jt. Secretary	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
4.	Shri Sharda Prasad, JS & DGE&T	Adviser	30 May-8 June, 2007
5.	Shri A.V. Singh, Director	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Hari K. Mathur, Under Secretary	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
7.	Shri M.K.R. Nair, Jt. Commissioner (Fisheries), D/o Animal Husbandry	Adviser	30 May-8 June 2007

Shri T.M. Anbarasan, Labour Minister, Tamil Nadu was accompanied by Shri Ramesh Kumar Khanna, Secretary (Labour), Tamil Nadu.

WORKERS' GROUP

1.	Shri Hasmukh Lal Gaurishanker Dave, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	Delegate	29 May-15 June, 2007
2.	Shri C.K. Sajinarayanan, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
3.	Shri N.M. Adyanthaya Vice President, INTUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

4.	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Vice President, INTUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
5.	Shri Swadesh Dev Roye, National Secretary, CITU	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Tampan Thomas, President, HMS	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
7.	Shri Deshkar Manohar Madho, Vice President, AITUC	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
8.	Shri P. Sankar Saha, General Secretary, UTUC(LS)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

EMPLOYERS' GROUP

1.	Shri K.G. Baalakrishnan, President, AIOE (CIE)	Delegate	29 May-15 June, 2007
2.	Shri N. Venkataramani, President, EFI (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
3	Dr. S.M. Dewan, (a) Director General, SCOPE (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-8 June, 2007
(b)	Shri S. Behuria, Chairman, CIE	Adviser	9-15 June, 2007
4.	Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, EFI (CIE)	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
5.	Shri B.P. Pant, Secretary, CIE	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
6.	Shri Babulal B. Todi, Ex-President, AIMO	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

7.	Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta, General Secretary, LUB	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007
8.	Shri Mohit Gandhi, Dy. Director, CII	Adviser	29 May-15 June, 2007

4. From the Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, Shri S. Pawan Singh, Permanent representative, Shri M.S. Grover, Dy. Permanent Representative and Shri V.K. Trivedi, Counselor, also attended the Conference with the rest of the delegation.

5. India is commitment and concerned towards the principles of tripartism and democratic values, is reflected from the above mentioned list of delegates. If we compare with the list of Indian delegates with other countries' delegates, it is proved beyond iota of doubt; the representation of social partners from India, in the 96th Session of ILC is extremely satisfactory. A comparative chart is as under:

Countries	Govt. Delegates	Govt. Advisers	Employers' delegates	Employer Advisers	Workers' Delegates	Workers' Advisers
Afganistan	2	6			1	
Bangladesh	2	2	1	3	1	1
China	2	16	1	8	1	8
Iran	2	9	1	3	1	4
Iraq	2	6	1	1	1	1
Repblic of Korea	2	12	1	7	1	6
Malaysia	2	9	1	1	1	1
Maynmar	2	10	1		1	
Nepal	2	2	1	1	1	8
Pakistan	2	2	1		1	
Singapore	2	8	1	2	1	7
Sri Lanka	2	8	1		1	7
India	2	9	1	8	1	7

Report of the Credential Committee is placed at flag 'A'.

6. The Conference, in its first session, is supposed to elect a President of the Conference, but due to some geo-political reasons, the President of the Conference could not be elected in the first sitting. There are 4 geographical groups in the ILO which are giving representation on the basis of rotation. This time, President of the Conference was to be elected from African Group. Initially, Cameroon, Congo and Nigeria expressed their willingness to participate in the election for the President of the Conference. Since only one person was to be elected, consultation among the groups started to sort out the issue. In ILO consensus is always given priority to election. However, after consultation with other countries Cameroon withdrew from the contest and election by way of voting was conducted between Congo and Nigeria. When it comes to vote, India voted in favour of Congo as per the advice of Ministry of external Affairs. Since the required votes for the majority was not casted, no one was declared elected. Finally, after a lot of consultation and negotiation Mr. Kastriot Sulka, Deputy Minister of labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Albania was elected as President of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference. Government Group nominated Mr. Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos (Brazil), employer's and workers' group nominated - Mr. Michel Barde (Switzerland) and Mr. Marc Blondel, respectively.

7. The agenda before the 96th Session of ILC was as follows:-

Agenda of the Conference:

Standing Items:

1. (a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director General.

(c) Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- II. Programme and Budget Proposals for 2008-09 and other questions.
- III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

Items placed on the agenda by the conference or the Governing Body.

- IV. Work in the fishing sector - Standard setting, with a view to the adoption of a Convention and a Recommendation
 - V. Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization - General discussion.
 - VI. The promotion of sustainable enterprises - General discussion.
8. Discussion on agenda item No. 1 took place at the preliminary session of the Conference. Other agenda items were discussed in committees and all committees were attended by the representatives of Indian delegation. Except Finance Committee, the basis of these committees was tripartite in nature. The

Finance Committee composes of Government representatives only and dealt with programme and budget questions.

9. Two other committees were also appointed, i.e., (i) Selection Committee which arranged programmes of the Conference and fixed the time and agenda for the preliminary sittings and (ii) the second committee was credential committee which dealt with matters concerning credential of delegates.

Reports of the Chair Person of the Governing Body and the Director General

10. As usual, Chairman of the Governing Body presented the written report to the Conference on the work of the Governing Body during the preceding year. This year, the report was made available to delegates quite late. The Conference had before it the report of the Director General of the International Labour Office. Report 1(a) were in two parts. The first part was on the theme chosen by the Director General and the second by way of annexed on the situation of workers of occupied Arab territories. Both the reports are annexed and were discussed in the sittings which started from 3rd week, i.e. 11th June to 14th June, 2007. As in previous years, the time limit on the speeches in reply to the reports was set of maximum of 5 minutes.

11. While intervening on the report of the Chairperson the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Shri Oscar Fernandes highlighted the achievements of Government of India in the context of the contents of report. He asserted that "the ILO in recent times has been emphasizing the social dimensions of globalization, sustainable development, productive and equitable markets, fair rules and greater accountability to people. India has a well established democratic system of consulting stakeholders. The

National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government also mandates tripartism and consensus. The goal of India's 11th Five year Plan is faster and more inclusive growth, epitomizing the social dimensions. The environment for inclusive growth has been crafted by flagship schemes, such as the Bharat Nirman Plan aimed at providing infrastructure and basic amenities in villages; the National Rural Health Mission providing primary healthcare; the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years along with the mid day meal scheme which provides cooked food to 109 million young school children; and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, which provides basic services to the urban poor and to slum dwellers. Various other schemes relating to road connectivity, housing, waged and self-employment, drinking water and the development of backward areas are in operation. These measures are carried out with the active involvement of rural, local governments called the Panchayati Raj, whose 3.4 million elected representatives, nearly 42 percent of whom are women, make India the most intensely democratic country in the world."

12. He asserted that India has always supported ILO when it has taken up new challenges in the past, and India would continue to support ILO in future in its endeavor to promote workers' interests.

The intervention of Hon'ble Labour Minister was highly appreciated; a copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'B'.

13. Secretary (L&E) made a forceful intervention on Director General's report. She complimented the Director General's report for advancing the agenda of Decent Work and Tripartism. She asserted "globalization has led to a process of increasing

economic interdependence between all countries in the developed and developing world. Over a period of time it has been observed that globalization has had a mixed impact. Therefore, we have to make a concerted effort to maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its negative outcome. This can be done if, as part of the global efforts to promote Decent Work, we forge closer links with the efforts of ILO to give an impetus to an 'inclusive' growth strategy and adopt special measures for those persons who would normally get excluded. At the same time without growth we cannot generate the resources needed for investment in social and physical infrastructure. That is why India's goal during the 11th Plan is 'Faster and more inclusive Growth'."

14. "A better labour market assessment across countries presupposes a common denominator of definitions of crucial concepts of unemployment, wages etc. Different definitions often lead to different results for the same process thus making the path of assimilation of varying labour standards into a single benchmark, so much more difficult. A major initiative on the subject, across nations would be very opportune. It is also necessary to integrate rural and urban development based on the population dynamics in each country."

The intervention of Secretary (L&E) was also highly appreciated. The details of her intervention are placed at flag 'C'.

Global Report under the follow up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

15. The Global Report is a part of follow up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (Declaration). Every year the global report reviews one of the

four principles of the Declaration. These four principles of Declaration are as under:

- (e) Freedom of association and effective recognition of right to collective bargaining.
- (f) Elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour.
- (g) The effective abolition of child labour.
- (h) The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

16. Its goal is to provide a dynamic global picture relating to each category of fundamental principles and rights, noted during the preceding 4-year period. It should also serve as a basis (a) for an assessment of the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the ILO and (b) to highlight future priorities for technical cooperation.

17. This year, the *Global Report* examined the fourth principle of the Declaration, namely, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

18. What is very significant this year is that this *Global Report* was the end of the second full cycle of *Global Reports*. After this year, each of the four fundamental principles would have been the subject of two *Global Reports*.

19. Shri S.K. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, participated in the deliberations on the *Global Report* and asserted "Government of India had always been against any sort of negative discrimination. India's Constitution provides for equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, race, sex and place of birth as basic fundamental rights. It also provides for equal remuneration to both men and women. Special laws have been

enacted to effectively realize this equality across the board. To ensure equality in the work place the Government has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Mines Act, 1951; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Plantation Labour Act, 1951; the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 etc. There have been concerted efforts to enforce the relevant statutes throughout the country. We have a very active judiciary, a free press and a vibrant civil society that ensure proper implementation of these Acts and statutes." A copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'D'.

Programme and Budget Proposals for 2008-09 and other questions.

20. In its meeting in March, 2007, the Governing Body endorsed a zero real growth programme level of US \$ 638,198,183, estimated at an exchange rate of 1.25 Swiss francs to the US dollar. The final exchange rate and the corresponding US dollar level of the budget and Swiss franc assessments will be determined by the Conference on the recommendation of the Finance Committee of Government representatives. The recommendation of the Governing Body for a zero real growth budget was not supported by five countries, which would have preferred a zero nominal growth.

21. The Office had again carried out the forward exchange contracts for the ILO's US dollar requirements for the 2008-09 biennium. The current appropriate figures are as under:

Budget of Expenditure	641 730 000
Budget of Income	641 730 000

Budget rate of exchange	1.23
Equivalent budget total in Swiss francs	789 327 900

When the Budget was put up before the ILC for its adoption, it was passed by majority. Some of the members of IMEC countries like UK, USA, Germany, France, Japan, Newzealand and Australia abstained from voting.

Committee on Application of Standards (Conventions and Recommendations)

22. One of the standing and powerful Committees of the International Labour Conference is the Committee on Application of Conventions and Recommendations. The proceedings of this Committee provided an opportunity to the representatives of the Governments, employers and workers to meet and examine the reports submitted by the Member States on the manner on which obligations under the ratified conventions and recommendations are being implemented in the national law and practice. Although it is highly technical committee, it has also political focus. Traditionally the workers have used this Committee as a showcase for alleged abuses and to highlight unpopular national policies.

23. The Conference Committee on the Application of Standards considers Report III, parts IA and IB which have been previously prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. In an opening general discussion, the Committee reviews the matters covered by the general part of the Committee of Experts' Report. Subsequently, the Committee examines part IB of the Report which consists of a General Survey (separate volume). This year's General Survey is entitled "Eradication of Forced Labour" and it looks at - Forced

Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).

24. The General Survey allows the Committee to review national law and practice in member States, to examine difficulties raised by governments as standing in the way of the application of the instruments, clarify their scope and indicate possible means of overcoming obstacles to their implementation. This is a way for employers to make known their concerns on the particular subject under review.

25. The issue of forced labour was also discussed in the Committee of Application of Standards under the purview of 'general survey'. Shri S. Krishnan, Additional Secretary participated in the deliberations of the Committee and asserted that India, as a country, has always been concerned about the abolition of bonded labour, "We have not only ratified the related ILO convention Nos. 29 and 105 but also made abolition of bonded labour system a part of our 20 Point Programme which reflects the priorities of the Government. Item 4 of the 20 Point Programme reads as under:

"Bonded Labour System wherever it exists is illegal and shall be abolished by law".

26. After initial discussions the Committee examined the individual cases. This year, India was figured in the list of individual cases. One of the trade unions, Hind Mazdoor Sabha made a complaint to the ILO directly without referring this issue to the Government. The intention of the complaint was, though India has ratified Convention No. 111 but the provisions of the Conventions are not being fully implemented in the country. Additional Secretary, Shri S. Krishnan and Joint Secretary Shri

S.K. Srivastava participated in the deliberations of the Committee. Shri Krishnan, Addl. Secy., made a detailed intervention on the issues, raised in the complaint against the Government of India. He informed the August gathering "Constitution of India under Article 16 provides for Equality of Employment. However, positive discrimination is followed by providing reservation in government Services in the matter of direct recruitment, promotion, etc. to socially disadvantaged groups. There have been indications of occupational diversification taking place among scheduled castes in recent years. The percentage of members of scheduled castes depending on agriculture has been declining and there is evidence of their shifting to urban areas for livelihood. The share of agricultural labourers among scheduled castes has also declined substantially over a period of one decade. Government of India has taken up various initiatives for the upliftment and empowerment of the schedule castes. National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation provide credit facilities to beneficiaries for income generating activities. The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations in the States identify and motivate the targeted group to undertake economic development schemes and help the targeted group by providing credit and missing inputs. In furtherance of Article 17 of our Constitution by which untouchability was abolished and its practice in any form forbidden, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 was enacted in order to enforce the said Constitutional provision. The provisions of the Act extend to whole of India. Further, to check atrocities against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was brought into force with the objective of preventing the commission of offences and for the relief and rehabilitations of the victims of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

27. As far as manual scavengers in the country are concerned, he asserted that India is fully committed to eradicate this social evil from the country. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, monitors the progress of implementation of national action plan for total eradication by 2007. He provided detailed answer to each and every issue raised in the complaint. His detailed intervention is placed at flag 'E'. Several delegates from other countries supported India, on the issue of discrimination. Commitment expressed by the most populous and largest democracy of the world was appreciated. They hope that this social evil would be totally eradicated from the country.

28. He also informed the August gathering about the implementation of several schemes in the country for the abolition of bonded labour/ forced labour from the country. He also asserted that this problem can be overcome if free movement of legitimate labour is encouraged internationally. He asserted "This also relates to free movement of labour. We are all aware that whereas capital is by and large free to move, labour isn't. Once market access becomes available, opportunities for labour will increase and this in itself will mitigate the possibility of forced labour. We are glad that the 'widening gap between the rich and the poor' finds a mention in para 197 of the document on "Eradication of Forced Labour". However, we believe that issue needs to be discussed at length in the context of denial of market access which is one of the primary causes of this 'widening gap' resulting in deprivation of opportunities to workers in developing countries, like India. It is our view that ILO should also focus on creating an international environment in which there are greater opportunities for the workforce not only within their

own country but also in other countries for their products and services." A copy of his intervention is placed at flag 'F'.

International Labour Standards:

29. The Committee on the Application of Standards again held a special sitting on the application by Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), following up measures taken in the context of Article 33 of the ILO Constitution.

30. The Committee expressed its profound concern at the forced labour situation in Myanmar, as reflected in the observation of the Committee of Experts. It concluded that none of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry had yet been implemented, and the imposition of forced labour continued to be widespread, particularly by the army to which specific instructions should be issued. The Committee urged the Government to implement all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

31. The Committee took due note of the fact that the complaint mechanism on forced labour continued to function, and that the authorities were investigating the cases referred to them by the Liaison Officer and taking action against those officials found to have illegally imposed forced labour. It was observed, however, that in a number of cases the action taken had been limited to administrative measures rather than the required criminal penalties.

32. The Committee underlined the need for the Liaison Officer to have sufficient staff resources available to him as provided for in the Supplementary Understanding signed with Myanmar in February, 2007. It noted with concern that the Government had

not yet agreed to the appointment of an international staff member to assist the Liaison Officer, even though the workload continued to increase, and urged that the necessary cooperation and facilities be given without delay.

33. The Indian delegate who participated in the deliberations on the prevalence of forced labour environment made an intervention in favour of Myanmar. The intervention was prepared by Permanent Mission of India (PMI), Geneva in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. It was asserted that ILO should continue to support Myanmar for eradication of forced labour from the country, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'G'.

34. The case of Belarus also came up for discussion. The Committee expressed his concern about the lack of freedom of association in Belarus. The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus who was present in the Committee briefed the Committee about the steps taken by his Government to ensure right of freedom of association. The Committee recalled the imperative need for the Government to act without delay to ensure that all workers' and employers' organizations would function freely and without interference, and obtain registration without any problem in the country.

35. The Committee also noted the concerns raised, relating to the draft Trade Union Law. In this respect, the Committee urged the Government to vigorously pursue its consultations with all social partners in the country, and its cooperation with the ILO, with a view of making the legislative changes required to bring the law and practice into full conformity with the Convention and the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

36. Welcoming the Government's statement that it would continue to cooperate with the national social partners and that it had invited a high level ILO mission immediately following the Conference, the Committee expressed the firm hope that significant progress in ensuring full respect for freedom of association would be made without any further delay. In order to appropriately monitor developments in this regard, the Committee recommended that the Governing Body reconsider this matter in November, 2007. Indian delegate supported the efforts made by government of Belarus, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'H'.

37. The issue of violation of freedom of association and protection of right to organize pertaining to Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was also discussed in the Committee. The Indian delegate supported the efforts of Government of Venezuela and made an intervention prepared by PMI in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. It was asserted "We have always encouraged dialogue and cooperation between member states and the ILO to resolve outstanding issues. We believe that the steps taken by the Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage with the social partners, at the domestic level and its efforts to continue consultation with ILO, within the constitutional and legal framework of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, are encouraging signs.

38. We, therefore, welcome the willingness of Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to engage with ILO. We believe that an objective and transparent assessment in the present context will go a long way, in consolidating the process of cooperation and dialogue between the ILO and the Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela. A copy of the statement is placed below at flag 'I'.

39. United States of America was also asked to appear before the Committee on Application of Standards for violation of provisions of Convention No. 144. Con. No. 144 deals with tripartite consultation. India has also ratified this Convention. As per the provisions of Con. No. 144 tripartite consultation with social partners is mandatory. Convention No. 144 is -

- (j) Convention No. 144 is very flexible, promotional instrument. It does not lay out precise requirements as to methods of application, but instead provides wide latitude for adopting procedures that are suited to national conditions and practice.
- (v) The purpose of consultation is to assist the government in reaching a decision for which it alone has responsibility. The Convention does not require either negotiation or agreement.
- (vi) Consultations do not have to be initiated by the Government.
- (vii) The Convention does not require an annual meeting or, for that matter, any meetings at all. Consultations can be based either on an exchange of communications or on discussions within tripartite bodies. Furthermore, although the Convention indicates that consultation shall be undertaken at least once a year, this does not require annual consultations on every point of Article 5(1).

40. American Government asserted - "A government's commitment to tripartism cannot be measured solely by the number of tripartite meetings it has convened. The Committee of

Experts has frequently pointed out that the mere fact a meeting was held is not a guarantee that the parties were engaged in a genuine tripartite consultative process. The United States, however, has a long history of respecting tripartism, both domestically and in our representation at the ILO. On going dialogue is a significant feature of our industrial relations system and our policy process."

American Government submitted a written reply on the consultative mechanism in their country. A copy of their reply is placed at flag 'J'.

Work in The Fishing Sector - Standard Setting, Single Discussion, with a view to the adoption of a Convention and a Recommendation.

41. In June 2005, at the end of the second discussion, a draft Convention and a draft Recommendation on Work in the Fishing Sector were submitted to the Conference. As they had maintained throughout the process, employers reiterated that the emerging draft Convention did not meet the objectives that had been established for a new Convention. They expressed strong reservations on a number of provisions and especially on the detailed, technical and prescriptive Annex on crew accommodation which, in their view, should have been included in a recommendation and not a Convention.

42. Several governments, especially Asian, also expressed reservations on various provisions of the proposed text and in particular on Annex III, its Gross tonnage (GT)/ Length Overall (LOA) conversion table and its provisions on Design and Construction.

43. At its 19th sitting, the Conference held final votes on the proposed texts. The Recommendation was adopted, but the Convention was not.

44. Following the result of the vote, the Conference adopted a motion requesting the Governing Body to place on the agenda of the 96th Session of the Conference in 2007 as item concerning work in the fishing sector based on the Report of the Committee on the Fishing Sector of the 93rd Session.

45. Two year after the failure of this second discussion, the main issues to be discussed are: medical examination, manning and hour of rest, private employment agencies, fisher's work agreement and Annex III on accommodation et GT/LOA conversion table, to mention only the most controversial ones.

46. Delegates gave an overwhelming support to new standards designed to improve conditions and million of men and women working in the fishing sector. The new standards have been designed to ensure that the workers in the fishing sector would get occupational safety, health and medical care while on the sea; sick or injured fishers would receive care ashore; receive sufficient rest for their health and safety; have protection of work agreement and have the same social security protection as other workers. The Committee was attended Shri N.K. Nair, Additional Commissioner (Fishing). India supported the new Convention and Recommendation, a copy of the report is placed at flag 'K'. When the item came for adoption it was passed by majority. The vote casted in this respect are as under:

(a) Convention:

Total vote in favour	Against	Abstentions	Quorum	Majority
437	2	22	296	293

(b) Recommendation:

Total vote in favour	Against	Abstentions	Quorum	Majority
443	-	19	296	296

Strengthening of ILO's capacity to assist its members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization:

47. With a view to meet the challenges of the globalization this agenda item was introduced. The report envisaged a focused debate on four areas.

- (v) How to better integrate the Decent Work Agenda into the work of the international Labour conference and Governing Body, as well as finding ways to help member States better integrate the strategic objectives of the ILO into their national social policy development.
- (vi) How to enhance the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) process by ensuring a better link between objectives set and resource allocation, as well as by indentifying a means to measure the impact of DWCP.
- (vii) How to enhance co-operation with other regional and international agencies so that more consideration is taken of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in their policy work.

- (viii) Finally, the elaboration of a possible "Authoritative Statement" as a means to confirm the role of the ILO in coming years. The paper acknowledges that this is not an issue for debate this year, but should be borne in mind if it is felt such a Statement could enhance the ILO in the wider debates on globalization.

48. The Report reflects the green lines which are identified as one of the major recommendation of the report. It recognizes that the debate can only proceed successfully on the basis of consensus. Similarly, it also recognizes the role of the Governing Body in identifying the modalities that may be necessary to give effect to the consensus emerging from this discussion, rather than the Conference itself.

49. This Committee was attended by Shri A.V. Singh, Director and Shri H.K. Mathur, Under Secretary. He supported the efforts made by ILO to face the new challenges of globalized world. A detailed intervention made in this regard is place at flag 'M'. When the report came for adoption the conclusions drawn by the Committee was adopted in ILC, a copy of the report is placed at flag 'L'

Promotion of sustainable enterprises - General discussion.

50. This is one of the important committee dealing with employment and was attended by Shri Sharda Prasad, Director General, Employment & Training. General discussion on sustainable enterprises provided an opportunity to:

- (k) show the relevance of the ILO to the business community;

- (l) establish some basic principles required to create 'sustainable enterprises';
- (m) direct the work of ILO towards a more pro-private sector development direction and, in this respect, identify specific areas of work for the ILO;
- (n) reposition the ILO's work on 'employment generation' towards a more practical focus;
- (o) secure support for key employment programmes of employer interest in the ILO;
- (p) highlight the importance of employers' organizations as key actors in advocating for effective reforms of the business environment at national level;
- (q) identify areas where policy coherence between international organizations (such as the World Bank, etc.) can be achieved in a very practical and operative way, for the good of enterprises;
- (r) reinforce the importance of the private sector in job creation and poverty reduction strategies (a role now broadly recognized by the international community)

51. Shri Sharda Prasad, DGE&T participated in the deliberations of Committee and made several interventions at appropriate times. A detail report about participation will be separately submitted by DGE&T.

52. In its **conclusions**, the Conference Committee on Sustainable Enterprises said that sustainable enterprises are a principal source of growth, wealth creation, employment and decent work. To realize these gains, a conducive environment for sustainable enterprises is essential, including peace and political stability, good governance and the rule of law, social dialogue, respect for universal human rights and international labour standards, entrepreneurial culture, sound economic policies, fair competition

and access to financial services, physical and technological infrastructure, education and training, and environmental sustainability.

A copy of the report adopted in the ILC is placed at flag 'M'.

NAM Labour Ministers' Conference and other activities:

53. In addition to the session of Conference as well as Conference Committee there were several other activities connected to the ILO. NAM Labour Ministers' Conference was one of the major events during the Conference. The Conference was attended by the Hon'ble Labour Minister, JS(SKS) and officials of Indian Mission. The theme of the NAM Labour Ministers' Conference was reform in the ILC. The Hon'ble LEM addressed the August gathering and said "While we, the member countries of Non-Aligned Movement are very dissimilar in size, culture, traditions and races, our philosophy to promote international peace combined with our emphasis on accelerating inclusive growth for all sections of the society has been a linking factor. In this era of globalization, there is need to realign ourselves, in such a way that we are able to maximize the benefits from this process. Globalization, after all, is not an economic process alone. It has wide social, political, environmental and cultural ramifications. In this new world, we must continue to play a positive role in international relations and strive for peace and development. NAM must develop new linkages and relationships with the multilateral organizations such as the ILO if it wishes to play a role that is commensurate with its size and population. Our size provides us with leverage in our efforts to exert influence in the international arena. We must capitalize on it and work together for our mutual interests".

54. It has been observed by some Member countries of the ILO that selection of cases by the Committee of Application of Standards is not transparent. Countries especially, developing countries are required to appear before the Committee again and again. Many cases are pending against developed countries but they are seldom asked to appear before the Committee, it requires transparency. Hon'ble LEM made in his speech, that transparency and objectiveness in the selection of cases are perhaps the most important aspect of any supervisory body. He asserted "While we appreciate the efforts of the Committee in ensuring the rights of the workers especially in the unorganized sector, we are of the opinion that it fails to take a holistic view of core issues. There is also a lack of appreciation for cultural diversities and historical tradition of member countries in the discussion held in the Committee on Application of Standards". The intervention made by Hon'ble LEM was highly appreciated by the other participants. A copy of his statement is placed at flag 'N'.

55. The Asia and Pacific region is playing an important role in the ILO for coordinating the interests and concerns of the region in respect of the matters under discussion in the ILO Governing Body as well as in the International Labour Conference. The Indian representative actively participated in the informal consultation with in the group as well as in the inter-regional meetings. This year, Asia and Pacific region has convened a meeting of Labour Ministers on the issue of occupational safety and health. Hon'ble Labour Minister addressed the meeting of Labour Ministers. The text of his address is placed at flag 'O'. China was the coordinator of Asia and Pacific Groups, after competition of its term, Iran was elected as new coordinator for the ASPAG.

56. At the initiative of Hon'ble LEM India has convened a meeting of Labour Ministers of SAARC countries on HIV/AIDS in the world of work. This meeting was attended by all the member of SAARC countries except Bangladesh. Secretary (L&E) while welcoming the August gathering informed that the stigma and discrimination are a combination of social processes and hence challenging stigma and discrimination requires social action to change the context within which individuals and communities respond to HIV/AIDS rather than just individual action as stigma and discrimination are products of social rather than individual processes. Creating a climate in which stigma and discrimination are no longer tolerated, therefore, requires social and community mobilization and empowerment of marginalized groups to resist stigma and discrimination. There is need for structural interventions, specially laws and policies that protect the rights of people living with AIDS and those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A copy of his speech is placed at flag 'R'.

57. Hon'ble Minister for Labour and employment asserted "The problem of HIV/AIDS is so huge that it cannot be tackled in isolation. There is an urgent need for some concrete collective efforts. While all of us are trying to deal with the problem in our own ways, in the best possible manner. I firmly believe that there is huge scope of learning in this area by sharing our experiences. With this objective in my mind, we thought of taking advantage of our presence in Geneva during the International Labour Conference of ILO and decided to have an experience sharing meeting".

58. On this occasion, he also introduced Country Report of India and requested other Members of SAARC countries to have a Country Report on the issue of HIV/AIDS. A copy of the Country Report is placed at flag 'P'.

59. After giving a brief description of activities of Labour Ministry in regard to tackling the problem of HIV/AIDS in the country, he requested other representatives that this is the appropriate time to come together and wage a war against HIV/AIDS and reduces its adverse consequences on social, labour and economic development. He pleaded that "As you know, all the SAARC countries are reporting cases of HIV/AIDS and the epidemic is spreading rapidly in most of the countries. On the basis of available information, it can be assumed that over 5 million estimated HIV infected people are living within the region. The danger of SAARC Region rests in the low 'general population' prevalence rates, which may be undermining the gravity of the situation. Such low rates conceal dangerously elevated 'concentrated' infection rates within high-risk groups such as CSW, MSM, IDU, etc. The fact is that despite the low prevalence rates within this region, it is apprehended that HIV/AIDS will spread farther and faster than in any other region globally. The existence of high-risk group behaviours, migrant workers, truckers, mobile populations in search of sexual pleasure, drugs and commerce, the unequal status of women, the lack of population awareness of 'basic' risks and prevention strategies, the trafficking of women and young girls within the sex trade, the high rates of STIs etc., all make for an explosion of HIV/AIDS within the region. We need to take cognizance of this and take immediate action to strengthen HIV/AIDS response in the world of work in the SAARC countries. As the prevalence is still low in these countries, we have the last window of opportunity to avert the epidemic through a concerned action." The text of his address is placed at flag 'Q'. Detailed report on this issue will be submitted separately.

60. Similarly, the ILO has also convened an informal tripartite meeting at Ministerial level on the issue of "Strategy for growth, employment and social protection". This meeting was held under the chairmanship of German Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. Secretary (L&E) attended the meeting and made a statement on social security issue. The intervention of Secretary (L&E) was highly appreciated, a copy of the intervention is placed at flag 'R'

61. During the ILC several bilateral meetings were also held. Hon'ble Labour & Employment Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes met Mr. Sabah Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs & Labour, Kuwait and Minister of Labour, Nepal. They exchanged note on several issues including protection of interests of migrant labour in Kuwait. Mr. Xiayoi Hu, Vice Minister, Labour and social security, China met Mrs Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E) and discussed several issues pertaining to labour and laws and labour reforms. The issue of extension of MOU which was signed in the year 2001 was also discussed. He expressed his desire for the extension of MOU which is in force till 24th Oct., 2008. He also requested Mrs. Pillai to visit China along with colleagues of Ministry of Labour and Employment for strengthening the relationship between two countries.

62. Mr. Muntefering. Franz, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany, along with delegation of 4 officials met Mrs Sudha Pillai, Secretary (L&E) and discussed several issues pertaining to social security. Mrs. Pillai apprised him about the functioning of social security system in the country and also informed the delegation that the Govt. of India is going to introduce the Social Security Bill on the first date of Monsoon Session of the Parliament. Mr. Franz invited Mrs. Pillai to visit

his country to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

63. The Conference hosted seven eminent guest speakers, including H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, H.E. Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairperson of the African Union, His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain, the most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica, H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, His Royal Highness Felipe de Borbon, Prince of Asturias, and H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

A complete set of record discussion is placed at flag 'S'.

(A.V. Singh)
Director

JS(SKS)

