

ASOKA MEHTA

Mr. Asoka Mehta has been Minister of Planning since January 24, 1966. Born on October 24, 1911, Mr. Mehta studied at Wilson College and the University School of Economics, Bombay. He was the founder member of the Congress Socialist Party, formed in 1934. He became the editor of the Party's weekly paper started in the same year and continued to serve in that capacity until 1939.

In 1949, Mr. Mehta organized the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (Indian Workers' Society), the third largest labour union in the country today and became its first General Secretary. From 1950 to 1953, Mr. Mehta served as General Secretary of the Socialist Party. In 1959 he was elected Chairman of the Praja Socialist Party. He was deputy leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations in 1963; in February 1964, the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru appointed him as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Mehta is the author of several books: THE COMMUNAL TRIANGLE IN INDIA; WHO OWNS INDIA; POLITICAL KIND OF INDIA; DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM; POLITICS OF PLANNED ECONOMY; SOCIALISM AND PEASANTRY; INDIAN SHIPPING; and STUDIES IN ASIAN SOCIALISM.