

effort. Campaigning for the Indian candidature was extensive, multipronged and sustained till the time of voting.

3. In a secret ballot of this kind voting intentions of countries are not fully disclosed and no precise reasons can be adduced for the lack of support. However, it can be concluded that India's firm and principled position on the CTBT had a bearing on the outcome. For some countries considerations of economic self-interest would have been the decisive factor in their vote.

4. India's case of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is a distinct and separate issue. Discussions on restructuring of the Security Council are taking place in an Open Ended Working Group of the United Nations, whose recommendations will be on the basis of consensus. After extension, the Group is expected to conclude its work by September 1997. No consensus is so far discernible within the Working Group on the question of increase in the permanent members' category or the criteria that should govern the expansion and inclusion of new permanent members. India supports the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members' categories. We have stressed the need for formulation of objective criteria which would determine the selection of countries as new permanent members.

5. Government remain fully committed to our traditional active foreign policy based on well-established principles. All necessary actions to safeguard and promote India's national interest in the international arena would continue to be taken.

G-15 Summit

*144. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation headed by the Prime Minister had participated in G-15 Summit in Harare recently;

(b) if so, the issues that were discussed at the Summit and the issues that were raised by India;

(c) the outcome of the Summit including the salient features of the conclusions arrived at in this Summit and India's reaction thereto;

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result of the Summit;

(e) whether any discussions relating to the united strategy to deal with the challenges posed by globalisation of economy and W.T.O. were held during the Summit;

(f) if so, the details thereof and role played by India in it; and

(g) the composition of Indian delegation and the expenditure incurred on the visit of the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (g). Yes, Sir. Prime Minister led the Indian Delegation to the Sixth Summit of G-15 the Summit level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation which was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from November 3-5, 1996. All G-15 countries were represented at the Summit, seven of them at the Head of State/Head of Government level, two at the Vice-Presidents level and the rest at the Ministerial/Special Envoy level.

G-15 Summit affirmed the viability of the Group as a forum for bringing about a better understanding among developing countries of their vital interests with regard to emerging global issues. India played an active role by drawing attention to concerns and prospects of developing countries in the evolving international trading system with special reference to WTO issues. There was a broad convergence of views on a number of key areas.

On South-South Cooperation, the Sixth G-15 Summit registered progress. Well-conceived techno-economic projects including the five coordinated by India will lead the way in providing technical cooperation and stimulating private sector joint ventures. Indian projects, which are in an advanced stage of implementation encompass cooperation in Solar Energy Applications, Gene Bank of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Computer Training Programmes, Small Scale Industries Cooperation and an Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre for vocational training. The Sixth Summit agreed to pursue these projects in a result-oriented manner and pledged effective participation by member countries.

The Summit addressed the problem of unsustainable levels of indebtedness in developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries. The Summit condemned all acts of terrorism and called for enhanced intra-G-15 cooperation to combat this problem.

The G-15 Summit provided an occasion for India to give a sharper focus to its political and economic relations with Africa. A special initiative of a revolving Fund for Africa of Rs. 100 crores was announced. This will involve technical cooperation as well as trade and investment finance components. The Fund will facilitate greater participation by India in the development of Africa and enable Indian trade and industry to establish a significant presence in Africa. Another continental initiative relating to Africa is India's offer to establish an Informatics Training Centre for Africa in Zimbabwe. MoUs were signed with Zimbabwe and Senegal for Small Scale Industries cooperation, which would also serve as demonstration models for other African countries.

The G-15 constitutes a nucleus of our larger efforts to promote Economic and Technical Cooperation among

Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC) and to make the best use of Southern markets, overcoming the difficulties created by regionalisation. The G-15's Committee on Investment, Trade and Technology (CITT) and Business and Investment Forum (BIF) will play an important role for information networking, trade facilitation and promotion measures, cooperation in quality and standards accreditation and trade fair participation. Work is to be undertaken for preparing request lists for improved market access among G-15 countries and making better use of GSTP for this purpose. The CITT will also work on evolving a proposal on developed countries providing preferential treatment to developing countries in all areas and sectors now covered by WTO regimes such as Services and TRIPs.

G-15 is a microcosm of G-77 and NAM, and is meant to complement them, including in G-15's dialogue with G-7 which was sought to be made more substantive following the Harare Summit. This was reflected in discussions on the future directions of G-15 along with other measures for making its mechanisms more efficient, participative, and business-oriented.

It was decided that Kenya is to be admitted as a member at the next Summit which is to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 1997. The Eighth Summit is to be hosted by Jamaica in 1998.

A representative Indian business delegation participated in the business events of the Sixth Summit. The Indian pavilion at the G-15 Business Exhibition in Harare showcased sophisticated Indian technology and manufacturing capabilities, helping to effect a positive brand image change about India among G-15 countries.

India's participation at the Sixth G-15 Summit contributed to G-15's revalidation and consolidation, both as a vehicle for effective South-South Cooperation and as a credible and focussed interlocutor with the North on contemporary issues of global economic management and development cooperation. The G-15 will help in asserting India's rights and interests in international fora and rule-making. It will also give a momentum to India's economic and commercial relations with the resurgent countries of the South - in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Yes, Sir. With regard to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the G-15 affirmed that development and improvement of the economic well-being of all nations should underpin all activities of the WTO. The Summit agreed that the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Singapore should "concentrate on reviewing the functioning and implementation" of the existing Uruguay Round Agreements. It should focus on concrete and meaningful measures for implementing these agreements. The Summit agreed that 'new issues' like trade and investment relationship and development of multilateral competition policy should be first studied outside the WTO in a non-contractual framework, to determine *inter-alia* their likely impact on the

comparative advantage of developing countries and the competitive advantage of their firms. On trade and core labour standards, the Summit agreed to "resist any attempts to bring labour and other social issues under the umbrella of the WTO". Difficulties faced by developing countries in adjusting to and absorbing the results of the Uruguay Round Agreements were highlighted and caution expressed against overloading the WTO agenda. Better implementation of their obligations by developed countries in areas of export interest to developing countries was urged. Attempts to advance and accelerate the time-table for implementation or re-open settled issues were opposed. The Summit expressed "serious concern" regarding the recent enactment of national legislation and other unilateral measures having extra-territorial effects. It was felt that these measures violate the accepted norms of international law and constitute a threat to the sovereignty of states, and the future of world trading system as the legitimacy of the WTO depends on the respect by all states for the established principles and rules. The Summit also addressed questions relating to the membership of the WTO, the relationship between the multilateral trading system and regional cooperation, compliance with WTO notification requirements, and dispute settlement body of the WTO. It was decided to engage in Ministerial level consultations among G-15 countries before the WTO Singapore Conference and next Chairman Malaysia is convening such a Meeting.

The Summit conclusions and decisions which are being transmitted to the G-7 Chairman will articulate developing country perspectives on WTO rule-making and help persuade the developed country partners of logic of enlightened mutual benefit, larger good and greater global prosperity and welfare.

The composition of the official Indian delegation was as follows :

1. The Prime Minister
2. Shri I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs
3. Shri T.R. Satish Chandran, Principal Secretary to PM
4. Shri H.K. Dua, Information Advisor to PM
5. Shri V.K. Grover, Secretary, MEA
6. Shri A.N. Ram, Secretary, MEA
7. Shri B.K.R. Rao, Secretary (Security)
8. Shri Shyamal Datta, Director, SPG
9. Shri S. Kipgen, High Commissioner of India to Zimbabwe
10. Shri P.P. Shukla, Joint Secretary, PMO
11. Smt. Lakshmi Puri, Joint Secretary, MEA
12. Shri Francis Vaz, Joint Secretary, MEA
13. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Director, PMO
14. Dr. VGR Shastri, Personal Physician to PM

15. Shri Mahendra Jain, PS to PM
 16. Dr. Rajiv Agarwal, Alternate Physician to PM
 17. Dr. N.K. Gupta, Physician

As regards the expenditure incurred on the visit of the delegation the details of expenditure are to be obtained from a number of agencies. This information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Repatriation of Indian Workers from UAE

*145. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether UAE had set September 30, 1996 as deadline for the repatriation of Indian workers living in that country illegally;
- (b) the circumstances in which these workers had gone there and the purpose thereof;
- (c) the reasons for sending back these Indians and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government had agreed to airlift 60,000 Indians out of UAE and appealed to UAE for the extension of deadline;
- (e) the number of Indians returned to India and the number of them stranded there even after the deadline;
- (f) the steps being taken for the early repatriation of stranded Indians;
- (g) the expenditure incurred by the Government to repatriate them;
- (h) the steps being to rehabilitate them and the nature of assistance given to State Governments in this regards; and
- (i) the measures proposed to ensure safety of Indian workers in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (i). The three-month amnesty announced by the Government of UAE for the departure of all illegal immigrants in that country, including illegal Indian workers was to end on September 30, 1996 which was extended for another one month upto October 31, 1996.

Available information indicates that some of the illegal workers had gone to UAE on a tourist visa or a transit visa but continued their stay even after expiry of their visas, while some others were misguided by their own relatives and friends whom they had gone to see and chose to stay on to work illegally and others entered the country by launches without proper documents. The purpose of all these illegal immigrants was to seek employment.

Under the UAE law, all illegal immigrants are liable to prosecution and deportation. The illegal immigrants

availed of the amnesty under which prosecution is waived by the UAE Government. Government of India have undertaken to facilities the repatriation of the illegal workers by providing travel documents where required and arranging transport requirements.

Government had no proposal to airlift 60,000 Indians out of UAE, but facilitated orderly and humane return of the illegal Indian workers to India. Towards this end, the Government of UAE was requested to extend the deadline.

An estimated 60,000 illegal Indian immigrants returned to India during the amnesty. Some Indian nationals coming under the purview of the amnesty, were stranded as they failed to leave the country within the extended period of the amnesty. Our mission in UAE facilitated the departure of all such stranded persons who came to the notice of the mission by obtaining a special dispensation from the UAE Government and also assisting them in obtaining air tickets.

The Government of India did not incur any expenditure directly for the repatriation. However Air India and Indian Airlines, operating from UAE to various destinations in India, reduced the air fare considerably for the amnesty-seekers. Further, Air India carried 186 stranded persons to India, free of charge.

Our mission in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General in Dubai are closely monitoring the emerging employment opportunities in UAE with a view to facilitate the return of the expatriated Indians to UAE in a legitimate manner. No Central assistance was given or proposed to be given to the State Governments concerned for the rehabilitation of these expatriate Indians from the UAE.

The Emigration Act of 1983, rules framed thereunder and instructions issued from time to time by Ministry of Labour contain provisions to ensure orderly recruitment and employment of Indians abroad and punishment of unscrupulous recruiting agents. Unskilled category of workers are issued emigration clearance only after producing employment agreement with reasonable safeguards, demand letter and power of attorney duly attested by concerned Indian mission in the country of employment. Offences under the emigration Act, 1983 have been made cognizable and imprisonment and fine have been prescribed.

The Indian missions and posts in the Gulf countries intercede whenever Indian workers face difficulties with their employers. In particular, the missions assist Indian workers in realising their dues from the employer, in ensuring reasonably good living and working conditions and ensuring that workers are not subjected to ill-treatment. Whenever complaints are received from Indian workers, the matter is first taken up with the employer directly for an amicable settlement. In case, the employer is unreasonable, the intervention of local authorities including the Labour Ministry is sought. If