

Meeting was the 'Role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond'. Other major subjects discussed were: Global political trends in the light of recent changes in international relations, South Africa, disarmament, Uruguay Round, Environment and Commonwealth Functional Cooperation.

The Harare Declaration reaffirms traditional emphasis on such issues as the struggle against apartheid and cooperation for development; at the same time it stresses the importance of democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law.

On South Africa, the CHOGM endorsed the recommendations of the New Delhi meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers for a 'programmed management' and phased easing of sanctions.

The Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister, and which included the External Affairs Minister, played an active and constructive part. As a lead speaker on Global Political Review, the Prime Minister put across the perspective of the developing countries on the challenges of a changing world. The Indian Delegation contributed to securing a balanced declaration in line with our view of the future priorities of the Commonwealth.

The issues such as linking of economic aid to human rights were raised by some countries. Many countries, including India, do not consider such linkages appropriate. The CHOGM Communiqué does not contain any reference to such linkages.

Revision in Price of Steel

* 117. SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and the Tata Iron & Steel Company

Limited have approached the Union Government for revision in the price of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India has forwarded the proposal for revision of steel prices to the Ministry of steel. Tata Iron & Steel Company has forwarded the same to Chairman, Joint Plant Committee (JPC).

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details.

(c) The proposals are under examination by the JPC.

Drought in Maharashtra and Gujarat

* 118. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra and Gujarat are facing unprecedented drought conditions at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these States have sought additional assistance from the Union Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). The State Government of Maharashtra reported that drought conditions have affected 12607 villages in 19 districts 141.47 lakh population and cropped area of 58.6 lakh hectares.

Government of Gujarat has reported that about 10,000 villages in 16 districts are