

The results of UNCTAD-V were disappointing for developing countries due to lack of progress in many important areas such as the evaluation of world trade and economic situation and structural changes in the world economy and a greater share for the developing countries in the international decision making processes, evaluation and consequential recommendations concerning Multilateral Trade Negotiations, measures to expand and diversify the export trade of developing countries in manufactures and semi-manufactures, Generalised System of Preferences, reform of the international monetary system, alleviation of their debt problems, Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology and bulk sharing of cargoes in shipping.

Some limited gains were registered by developing countries in areas like Protectionism, Commodities, Official Development Assistance (ODA), steps for strengthening the technological capacity of developing countries, problems of Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, improving UNCTAD's effectiveness and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (EGDC). The major gain at the Conference was however, the new awareness amongst the developing countries for mutual economic cooperation and self reliance for which the tone was set by India's proposal for fresh round of tariff negotiations among developing countries on the basis of 50 per cent tariff concessions.

At the UNCTAD forum, negotiations take place essentially on the basis of group proposals or positions. Basically the disappointing results of UNCTAD V were due to the negative or halting response of the developed countries to many important issues.

(c) and (d) The negotiations on various issues before UNCTAD-V including trade preferences were conducted by the developing countries on the basis of the harmonised positions at their Arusha meeting. Therefore, considerations of aid by developed countries acting as an inhibiting factor in the ability of the Group of 77 to bargain for trade preferences did not arise.

In regard to trade preferences both at the meeting of the Group of 77 and at UNCTAD-V, developing countries like India proposed that the developed countries should ensure implementation of the commitments by developed countries under the Tokyo Declaration to provide special and differential treatment to the developing countries and rejected the concept of graduation among developing countries. The developing countries also sought extension of the Generalised System of Preferences beyond the initial

period of 10 years, giving it a legal character, provision for binding of negotiated rates, enlarging the product coverage and prior consultations in case of withdrawal of preferences.

Disruption in flights of I.A.

*99 SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable disruption in the flights of Indian Airlines,

(b) if so, the extent of such disruption and the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps proposed for effective and efficient functioning of the airways?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There have been some disruptions in flights of Indian Airlines on account of the following reasons.—

(i) Loss of a Boeing-737 aircraft each at Hyderabad and at Madras,

(ii) Mandatory inspection of HS-748 fleet requiring grounding of one HS 749 aircraft,

(iii) Damage to one Boeing-737 aircraft at Nagpur due to cattle-hit and

(iv) Damage to one HS 749 and Airbus which got involved in accidents at Mangalore and Calcutta respectively.

(c) All avoidable delays and disruptions are periodically reviewed by a Team. To avoid disruptions some fast moving spares and trained personnel are being made available at some of the stations. Improved communication facilities like Company Channels are being introduced by which aircraft in flight can inform ground personnel about the snag which can be attended to as soon as the aircraft lands.

Submission of Report on Gold Policy

*94 SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing

(a) whether the High Powered Committee on Gold Policy has since submitted its report to the Government;