

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Heads of States and Governments at Nassau adopted a Commonwealth Accord, detailing steps to be taken including special economic measures against South Africa to bring about an end to its apartheid policies and termination of its illegal occupation of Namibia.

New Delhi talks on Sri Lanka

648. DR. H P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh proposals were evolved at the ten day long talks held in New Delhi in August, 1985 between India and Sri Lanka to form the basis of a settlement between the Government of Sri Lanka and Tamil militants;

(b) if so, what were the details of the proposals evolved ; and

(c) what steps have been taken in the light thereof to arrive at a settlement on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) After the second round of talks at Thimpu in mid August, talks were held in New Delhi between August 23 and 31 with Dr. H. W. Jayewardene and other Sri Lanka officials who had participated in the Thimpu talks. On the basis of these talks the proposals made by the Sri Lankan delegation in Thimpu were revised and a working paper was prepared which could serve as the basis for further negotiations towards a political settlement.

(b) The draft working paper proposed establishment of provincial Councils, devolution of certain legislative and executive powers to these councils. It also envisaged mechanisms for safeguarding of minority rights.

(c) Talks were held with the various Tamil groups in September on matters relating to maintenance of effective ceasefire and issues in the working paper. The Foreign Secretary later visited Sri Lanka on September 26 and held discussion with President Jayawardene and other leaders on matters to maintenance of the ceasefire and setting up of a Monitoring Committee to monitor the cease fire.

Thereafter, further talks were held with the Tamil groups in October, and the views of the groups in regard to a political solution were conveyed to the Sri Lanka President and other leaders by the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary during discussions in Nassau. A further round of talks with the Tamil group was held from November 7-9. Further contacts with the Sri Lankan side were held during Prime Minister's visit to Oman.

Indo-U.K. talks on checking Terrorism

649. SHRI KALPNATH RAI :
SHRI SURESH PACHO-
URI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during Prime Minister's recent visit to the U.K. comprehensive arrangement between the two countries to effectively tackle the problem of terrorism was agreed upon ; and

(b) if so, what are details of the scheme and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in pursuance thereof by the two Governments especially those relating to apprehending of and bringing to book the extremists like Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.