

(b) Government is aware of the problems raised in the memorandum. Reserve Bank has recently revised the interest rates on agricultural loans and has advised the commercial banks to adopt the following reduced rates from 15th March, 1979 on terms loans, with maturity of not less than 3 years for agricultural purposes:

- (a) Minor Irrigation/land development—Not exceeding 9J per cent;
- (b) Diversified purposes—Not exceeding 9J per cent for small farmers and 10J per cent for others.]

New World Economic Order

1817. PROF. N. G. RANGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Conference of 80 nations of the Third World which met in Tanzania to implement their decision to set up a commodity price stabilisation common fund; and

(b) the steps Government of India propose to take to induce the industrialised States to accept and contribute to the implementation of the New World Economic Order enunciated by the United Nations and what has been the total contribution during the two development decades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 was held in Arusha, Tanzania, in February 1979, to formulate the joint position of the Group of 77 on the various items of the provisional agenda for the Fifth Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held in Manila during May-June 1979. At the meeting, in the document which was adopted unanimously, the Ministers of the Group 77 have emphasised the need to facilitate agreement on the fundamental elements of the Common Fund at the Negotiating Conference convened from 12 to 16

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March 1979. The elements on which agreement has been sought by the developing countries have also been specified in the document adopted at the meeting.

(b) India has been playing active and constructive role in concert with other developing countries in the deliberations that have been taking place in the international forums for the implementation of the New International Economic Order. At the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, which was held in Tanzania in February 1979, the developing countries have inter alia adopted a Programme for Collective Self-Reliance. The Programme underlines the vital importance of initiatives which member governments of Group of 77 need to take to accelerate the development and transformation of their economies through the process of collective self-reliance which include an intensification of their joint and concerted efforts to mobilize their resources and markets for building a structure of genuine economic interdependence and complementarity between their economies and explore areas of commonality of interest as well as the strengthening of their solidarity in their negotiations with the developed countries for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The developments that have taken place over the years subsequent to the adoption of the International Development Strategy for 70s have highlighted the fact that the policy measures envisaged in the Strategy would not have provided an adequate basis for the long-term development of the developing countries. The central concept of the new International Economic Order, which was adopted subsequent to the Strategy, is related to an underlying assumption that the restructuring of the existing institutions governing international economic relations in favour of developing countries can arise essentially from increased bargaining power on the part of the developing countries.