

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Major violators of directives on pollution control measures in public and private sector in Kerala are : Travancore Titanium Products, Travancore Cochin Chemicals, Punaloor Paper Mills, Lakshmi Starch, Vanchinad Leathers, Kerala Spinners and Polson Distillery.

(b) The State Pollution Control Board is directing the industries to instal necessary effluent treatment plants. Legal action is also taken against the recalcitrant Industries.

(c) Some modifications to the existing law are contemplated.

(d) It is premature to give details.

Smokeless Chulhas

1280. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new smokeless chulhas installed in the country so far; and

(b) whether instead of chulhas, Government proposed to provide LPG in cylinders to rural areas and save forests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) 8,38,079 improved chulhas have been installed in the country since the inception of the National Programme on Improved Chulhas in December, 1983.

(b) At present there is no scheme with the Government to provide LPG in cylinders to rural areas and save forests, instead of providing smokeless chulhas.

Representations to Connect Sikkim by Air with Rest of the Country

1281. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Sikkim Government to connect the State by air with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the response of the Centre in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase seat quotas in the Indian Airlines for passengers from Sikkim to come to Delhi and Calcutta till such time Sikkim is put on the air map ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gangtok in Sikkim is one of the stations identified for airlinking by Vayudoot. The Director General of Civil Aviation is in the process of locating a site for the development of an airport in Gangtok for operations with a STOL type of aircraft. An air service to Gangtok can be introduced only after an airport and other infrastructural facilities have been developed.

(c) In view of the existing traffic demand, there is no need for upward revision in the seat allocation.

[Translation]

Talks with Pakistan to Facilitate Travelling

1282. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to facilitate easy travelling between India and Pakistan Government are holding talks with the Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the results of the talks held and the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) the main features of the facilities to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes Sir,