

of a Department of Mountain Development ;

(c) The Union Department of Environment and the state Departments consider integrated mountain development an area of highest national priority. Accordingly, the Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development with a network of Centres of Advanced Studies, is being set up as an autonomous organisation to concentrate only on environmental problem, of the Himalayan region. In addition Integrated, Action Oriented Eco-Research Programmes have been mounted to find solutions to the location-specific problems in the Himalayas, Western Ghats and other mountain areas in the country. Major emphasis of these programmes is on solving the local problems with public participation. In view of the above it is not considered feasible to create a separate Department for Mountain Development.

“Schemes to Pre-Empt Environmental Damage”

61. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn schemes to pre-empt further environmental damage in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme which have been formulated include the following ;

(i) An action plan for cleaning the polluted stretches of Ganga ;

(ii) River basinwise inventorisation of polluting sources and their control ;

(iii) Implementation of standards polluting industries within a given time frame ;

(iv) Demonstration projects for reclamation of degraded areas ;

(v) Raising of fodder and fuel-wood plantations in 5 million hectares of Westland every year under the aegis of the National Westland Development Board ;

(vi) Social Forestry programme.

(vii) protection of selected ecologically sensitive areas as Biosphere Reserves ; and

(viii) Catalytic assistance for promotion of environmental activities at the State level.

Kidnapping of Students by Bangladesh Rifles Jawans.

62. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 18 February, 1985 stating that two Indian school students were kidnapped from West Tripura's Narayanpur village, 500 yards inside the Indian territory by intruding Bangladesh Rifles Jawans ;

(b) if so, the details of the incident ; and

(c) the action taken by Government for their release ?

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

(b) On 15th February, 1985 at about 1530 hours, two Indian students,

Mr. Parimal Dev resident of village Usha Bazar and Mr. Parimal Sarkar of village Gardhigram inadvertently entered Bangladesh from Narayanpur village on the Indian side and were apprehended by the Bangladesh Rifles.

(c) The PSF Commandant lodged a protest with his counterpart and requested that the two Indian nationals be returned.

A Company Commander level meeting was held on 20th February, 1986 and a flag meeting at the battalion Commander level on 25th February, 1985. The Bangladesh side has informed the BSF that the two Indian students who had been apprehended on the Bangladesh side of the border would be tried as per local laws.

To pursue the matter further, BSF sought a meeting at the Sector Commanders level between DIG BSF Tripura and Sector Commander BDR Comilla on 7th March. The Sector Commander BDR, however, failed to turn up for the meeting.

Government will continue its efforts to obtain the release of the two Indian nationals.

Flouting of Safety Rules by Indian Airlines

63. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' 19th February 1985 under the caption "I. A. flouting, safety rules";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action Government have taken to follow safety rules in the Air India and Indian Airlines ?

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

(b) The news item mentions that flight safety is being ignored by Indian Airlines and refers in this regard to the following: (i) Flying of aircraft without a Certificate of Airworthiness, (ii) Under-staffing in Indian Airlines Corporation, (iii) Non-maintenance of Minimum Equipment List (M. E. L.), (iv) scuffing of Tyres, (v) Overlanding of HS-748 aircraft and (vi) Absence of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMES)

(c) and (d). The contents of the news item were examined and it was found that there had been no violation of rules affecting the safety of aircraft.

(e) The airlines are required to follow the prescribed procedures strictly, and this is monitored by the Director General of Civil Aviation through spot checks and a system of mandatory reporting of major defects/incidents/accidents etc. These are promptly investigated by the Director General of Civil Aviation and necessary preventive/corrective actions are taken including punitive action, wherever breach of regulations is involved.

Proposal to Boost Tourism Under South India Programme

64. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to boost tourism under South India programme;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;