

(a) whether he visited Siachen Glacier on 30th April, 1998 when the Pakistani troops indiscriminately opened fire on Indian post without any provocation during the inspection;

(b) the number of casualties Indian army suffered therein; and

(c) the efforts made to ensure that our troops posted there are well equipped to retaliate the indiscriminate firing often taking place from across the Pak border ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Unprovoked firing by Pakistan along the borders in J & K (Siachen sector, Line of Control and IB) is a regular phenomenon and has been continuing over the years. Raksha Mantri visited the Siachen sector on 29 and 30 April, 1998. On 29 April, 1998. Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing on some of the posts in this sector. Our one soldier was killed in Siachen sector due to Pakistani firing.

Our troops deployed along the borders in J & K are well equipped and trained. Appropriate response is given by our troops to Pakistani unprovoked firing, taking due care that the incident remains localised and our casualty is minimal.

*[English]*

#### **Drinking Water in Delhi**

\*36. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drinking water in Delhi is highly contaminated;

(b) If so, whether the Union Government and the State Government jointly propose to take any steps to provide non-polluted water to its residents; and

(c) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the drinking water being supplied conforms to the laid down norms. However, certain instances of contamination of water had come to the notice of the Delhi Jal Board recently. The cause of contamination was investigated and the same rectified. In order to ensure potability of water being supplied to consumers and to avoid any possibility of contamination, the work of flushing and cleaning of reservoirs, over-head tanks and dead-ends in distribution system is done regularly. All concerned agencies like NDMC, CPWD, Delhi Cantonment Board, Cooperative Societies and bulk consumers are also advised from time to time to take similar preventive action. Quality control measures are taken right from the raw water

stage upto the consumers end, including random checking of 250-300 samples daily.

#### **Credit Fee Structure of Airlines**

\*37. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed a credit fee structure of airlines on the basis of routes;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether routes have been divided into different categories for the credit fee;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether due to this decision smaller airlines are to be benefited; and

(f) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration for a credit fee structure of airlines on the basis of routes. However, various suggestions for providing concessions/incentives to air operators connecting small stations of various regions particularly far-flung, remote and inaccessible areas like the North-Eastern region, J & K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are under consideration.

#### **Policy to Augment Employment**

\*38. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed any new policy to augment employment opportunities in the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes Sir, a new scheme "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana" (SJSRY) has been launched on 1.12.97.

(b) The SJSRY seeks to rationalise all urban poverty initiatives in the country. While providing opportunities for self and wage employment, the scheme gives a special impetus to empowering and uplifting the urban poor women through a special programme titled "Development of Women and Children" (DWAC) under which groups of urban poor women setting up self employment ventures are eligible for a subsidy of upto 50% of the project cost or Rs. 1,25,000 whichever is less. Special incentives are also being given for organising Thrift & Credit Societies and creation of missing infrastructure and basic minimum services in urban poor/slum areas through provision of wage employment.