

India issued a statement expressing its concern at the devastation of the war, particularly the loss of civilian life and property and calling upon the parties to the conflict to abjure the use of weapons of mass destruction, India repeatedly tried to get the Security Council activated in order to ensure that the military operations in the Gulf were in conformity with the objective of Resolution 678 and that the Security Council discharge its responsibilities under the Charter on this matter. As a matter of fact, India prepared a draft resolution asserting the role and authority of the Security Council and consulted all the members of the Security Council on this draft.

In the face of clear indications of the commencement of a land war, India, even while it pursued its own initiative through NAM, gave strong support to the Gorbachev Plan, Notwithstanding the opposition of some of the Permanent Members, India forcefully argued that Security Council cannot abdicate its responsibilities and that the gap between the Gorbachev plan accepted by Iraq and the requirements of the Coalition could be narrowed down and that the great tragedy of a land war should be averted. India proposed that a text should be prepared reconciling the differences in the two approaches and to serve as a basis for ending the war.

It is indeed a matter of deep anguish that India's efforts have not so far borne fruit and that the war rages on unchecked acquiring even more dangerous dimensions. But undeterred, India is continuing with its efforts to restore peace.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Tourism in Ayodhya

*85. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed schemes of the Union Government to promote tourism in Ayodhya (Faizabad):

(b) the details of the schemes which are already in operation;

(c) the allocation made for those schemes;

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be completed; and

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey in order to start some more schemes for providing facilities to tourists in Ayodhya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for projects/schemes to States depending on their merit, availability of funds and inter-se priorities. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently forwarded a project to Ministry of Tourism for financial assistance for construction of a Yatri Niwas at Ayodhya which is under consideration.

(b) and (c). During 1985-86 scheme for construction of a stage for open air theatre and wayside amenities in Ayodhya was sanctioned for Rs. 26.80 lakhs out of which Rs. 13.40 lakhs were released.

(d) According to the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, the schemes of open air theatre and wayside amenities at Ayodhya have been included in a composite scheme for Ayodhya, for which architectural plan is being prepared by them. After finalisation of the plan, execution of the projects will be taken up by the State Government.

(e) The surveys for development of

facilities at tourist places are taken up by the State Government, they have no such proposal at present.

Refuelling of US Air Force Planes

*86. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI M. S. PAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the US air force planes to use Indian air space and also extended refuelling facilities at Bombay and other airports in the country en-route to the Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement was signed with the US for extending such facilities;

(d) if so, the respective dates on which such agreement was first signed and later renewed;

(e) the number of aircraft refuelled so far and quantity and cost of fuel used;

(f) whether it was ensured that these aircraft did not carry any weapons, arms and ammunition;

(g) the reasons for deviation from the well-established non-aligned policy of the Government not to take sides with any of the warring factions; and

(h) whether Iraq has lodged a protest against this permission and if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 120 US Air Force aircraft were permitted to overfly India Air Space in Septem-

ber 1990, and 136 aircraft were allowed transit and refuelling facilities during January and February 1991.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the present context, 136 United States Air Force transport aircraft have been given transit and refuelling facilities in January and February, 1991, and approximately 32 lakh litres of fuel has been supplied. The cost of the fuel is being ascertained and will be laid on the table of the House.

(f) The refuelling of these transport aircraft was permitted on a clear assurance from the US Government that the flights would be used for the sole purpose of carrying non-lethal supplies and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds;

(g) The Government of India's decision does not detract in any manner. India's well-established non-aligned policy.

(h) No formal protest has been received from Iraq by the Government of India, but the Government has noted the statement made by the Iraqi Ambassador to India. Government have explained to the Iraqi authorities that the flights were not directed at aiding the war effort and were permitted for the sole purpose of transporting non-lethal supplies and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds.

[English]

Violation of Quality Norms by Fertilizer Manufacturers

*87. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: