

**Afforestation Programme to meet the Demands of Wood for Fuel and Industry**

\*15. **PROF. RAMKRISNA MORE** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start a massive afforestation programme to meet the demands of wood for fuel and industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN)** : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The afforestation effort is being stepped up with the object of bringing five million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantations. The details are being worked out.

**India's Relations with Bhutan**

\*16. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI** : Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken during the last one year to improve India's relations with Bhutan; and

(b) further steps proposed to be taken to improve these relations in future ?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI)** : (a) Our relations with Bhutan have been further strengthened in this period by exchange of visits, Indian assistance to Bhutan's development plan and specific projects, and close consultations in all fields. HM the King of Bhutan paid three visits to India from January 1984 to February 1985, and HM the Queen Mother has been our guest in India last year. A new Trade Agreement came into effect, a Telecommunications Agreement was signed, and a microwave communications link between Bhutan and the outside world was commissioned.

(b) During the recent visit of HM the king of Bhutan, the Prime minister has expressed his willingness to visit Bhutan this year, and India has assured Bhutan of its continued support in that country's development. Close consultations are envisaged on the formulation of Bhutan's Sixth Development Plan commencing 1987. Meanwhile, some Indo-Bhutan projects are under consideration in cement, power generation, transmission and distribution, river, training, broadcasting etc.

**Security Personnel Killed by Under-Ground Naga Insurgents**

\*17. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK** : **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL** : Will the **Minister of HOME AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether 15 security personnel have been killed in Mingching in Manipur's Ukhrul district by Naga underground insurgents during the second week of February, 1985 ;

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

(c) the action taken by Government in regard thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN)** : (a) and (b). On February 18, 1985, a vehicle belonging to the Security Forces proceeding from Kangpat to Kamjong village in the Ukhrul district was ambushed by a group of Naga underground belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) near Nampisha village about 10 Kms. South of Chasrad. 13 SF personnel (including a JCO) and a Circle officer of the Village Volunteers Force (VVF) were killed and one of the two VVF personnel travelling in the vehicle was injured while the other managed to escape. The NSCN undergrounds also carried

away some arms and ammunition besides the belongings of the ambushed personnel.

(c) Security measures have been tightened. Combing Operations in the area have been taken up and strict vigil is being maintained.

**"Air Pollution Due to Lead"**

\*18. SHRI P. MANIK REDDY : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that addition of lead is the main cause of air pollution; and

(b) whether Government propose to follow USA example and stop use of lead and switch over to power alcohol?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Addition of lead in petrol beyond a certain limit is one of the causes of air pollution.

(b) No, Sir. Switching over to power alcohol is not under consideration in the near future.

**Air Services between Delhi and Raipur**

\*19. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide better air services between Delhi and other places ; and

(b) if so, the details of the air services provided at present and proposed to be provided in near future between Delhi and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) It is the constant endeavour of the Airline to improve its services through measures which in-

clude, inter-alia, introduction of new services, augmentation of capacity on existing routes, introduction of better aircraft and provision of more efficient ground and inflight services.

(b) Raipur is linked with Bhopal by a daily Avro flight which operates on the route Bhopal/Jabalpur/Raipur and back. A daily Boeing 737 service on the route Delhi/Gwalior/Bhopal/Indore/Bombay provides a very convenient connection for passengers destined to Delhi/Raipur. In addition, Indian Airlines is operating a twice weekly Boeing 737 service on the route Delhi/Varanasi/Raipur and back. The present capacity to and from Raipur adequately meets the traffic demand and it is not proposed to effect any changes in the services for the present.

**Plan and Facilities to Attract Tourists from Foreign Countries to Ashoka group of Hotels**

\*20. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposed a new plan alongwith some facilities recently to attract more tourists from foreign countries to stay in the Ashoka Group of hotels of ITDC ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). With a view attracting more tourists from foreign countries to stay in the Ashok Group of hotels, ITDC has recently entered into a Marketing and Reservation agreement with other Hotel Representatives (OHR) of Hong Kong. This agreement provides ITDC the benefit of marketing and reservation facilities with the help of 15 offices of O.H.O.R. located in 11 countries. Under this agreement, OHR, which also represents major hotel chains world-wide, will make sales calls on behalf of ITDC and provide the reservation infrastructure to bring business to ITDC hotels.