

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.

ITDC has also introduced the following schemes to attract foreign tourists to its hotels :

(i) *Ashok Young Explorers Travel Plan*

Under this scheme foreign students/youths are being offered a package to come to India during the International Year of Youth (1985) at US \$ 10 per day per head which will include accommodation and breakfast. The package is open to groups of 15 persons and above, with the tour leader and his spouse being given complimentary facility. The offer is open subject to a group maintaining its minimum size.

(ii) *Stop-Over Packages in India*

Under the scheme ITDC provides accommodation to all stop-over passengers travelling from the Far-East to Europe and vice versa, through Delhi and Calcutta, at US \$ 19 per person per day. The package includes accommodation on twin-sharing basis, ground transfers and also a half-day's sight-seeing.

(iii) *International Marketing Effort*

ITDC has also intensified its international marketing effort by active participation in world travel trade forums, such as INTERNATIONAL TOURISM BORSCHÉ (Berlin), FIRARE INTERNAZIONALE DE TURISMO (Madrid), PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION, etc.

(vi) *Food-Cum-Cultural Festivals*

In order to project India as a tourist destination, ITDC have also organised several Food-cum-Cultural festivals

abroad. These festivals were held at Rome, Berlin, Mauritius, Athens, Kuala-Lumpur, Dubai and Abu Dhabi during the last year.

**Explosion in Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Station at Jog**

\*24. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 15 mw transformer at the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-electric station at Jog caught fire and exploded on 19.2.1985 disrupting power supply from that station ;

(b) if so, whether a team of experts from Karnataka Electricity Board rushed to the spot to investigate the cause of the accident;

(c) whether a number of hydro-electric stations have been damaged due to sabotage ;

(d) whether Central investigation has been ordered into all such fires that had occurred in the hydro-electric and thermal power station in the country ;

(e) if so, the out come thereof ; and

(f) remedial measures being taken to check such sabotage in the thermal and hydro-electric power station ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). There was a fire at Mahatma Gandhi Power Station at Jog on 19.2.1985, but there was no explosion. A team of experts from Karnataka Electricity Board is investigating the cause of the fire, but sabotage is not suspected.