

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen the monitoring units in the State planning bodies during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) whether Government have also a proposal to set up separate monitoring units in important technical departments in public sector corporations and major projects in the above plan period; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, it is proposed to continue the scheme on 'Strengthening the Planning Machinery in States' which covers the strengthening of monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies, in the Seventh Plan also.

(b) and (c). The Working Group on Monitoring and information system at State and District levels during the Seventh Plan has inter-alia recommended that Monitoring Units would need to be set up in important technical departments, public sector corporations and important projects. No decision has been taken on these recommendations as the Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised.

Crash of Air India Boeing 747

362. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had conveyed displeasure to the Canadian Government for inadequate security measures undertaken in their Airport which had led to its crash of 'Kanishka' ;

(d) number of countries who assisted and helped in finding out the dead bodies and also in finding out the cause of accident ; and

(c) whether all the countries have been approached for tightening security in their Air-ports to avoid such tragedies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) United States of America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and France have helped in search of dead bodies and wreckage of the aircraft. Representatives of U.S.A. and Canada are associated with the investigation of the accident.

(c) International Civil Aviation Organisation who are responsible among other things to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world of which India is a member are reviewing the security measures at airports in various member countries.

Purification of Ganga Water

363. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steering committee for the Ganga action plan has approved a number of schemes to be completed soon at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.2 crores ;

(b) if so, the other schemes that will also be undertaken during the current year for purifying the Ganga ;

(c) whether the Planning Commission have agreed to allocate Rs. 10 crores for the current year for the Ganga project and the Project Directorate had been given special powers to approve scheme up to Rs. 1 crore ; and

(d) if so, number of schemes which will be undertaken by Government during the current year in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes Sir. The Steering Committee for the Ganga Action Plan has approved two project proposals for the prevention of pollution of river Ganga at Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttar Pradesh at a total work cost of Rs. 96,20,000 (Rupees Ninty Six lakhs twenty thousand).

(b) Some other schemes have also been received from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal and they are under examination.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) It is expected that some more schemes will be sanctioned during the year but it is not possible to specify the exact number.

Activities of Extremists Groups in N E. Regions

364. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to reports published in the national press regarding attempts by various secessionist and extremist groups in the North East regions ;

(b) how far these reports are true and what is the Government's reaction in the matter ;

(c) whether Government of Tripura have asked for a few more battalion of para military forces to combat terrorism ; and

(d) what is the Government's response to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). In the absence of reference to any specific news item, it is not possible to indicate the reaction of the Government. However, Government is aware of the activities of the secessionist and extremist groups in the North Eastern Region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Within the overall constraints of availability of para military forces, the strength of such forces in Tripura has been augmented from time to time.

Modernisation of Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye

365. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rare earths plant at Alwaye in Kerala has not been modernised during the past two decades ;

(b) whether there is any scheme at present to modernise this plant ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). The Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye in Kerala has been operating since 1952 to installed capacity and additions and improvements have been carried out as and when required. The modernisation scheme of this plant costing approximately Rs. 2 crores consists of additional machinery and equipment, equipment for mechanical handling of filter cakes, augmentation of storage and other facilities. The scheme also provides for facilities for recovery of helium from monazite and uranium from active cakes.

New Airport in Coimbatore

366. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) at what stage is the work on the new airport at Coimbatore at present ;

(b) how much money has been spent so far ; and

(c) by what time it will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The estimate for extension and strengthening of the runway at Coimbatore is ready. The proposal is being submitted for the competent authority's approval. The preliminary drawings are under preparation for extension and modification of the terminal building.

(b) An amount of Rs. 18.85 lakhs has been so far spent on acquisition of land for extension of the runway.

(c) The work relating to the extension and strengthening of the runway is likely to be completed in about 18 months after it is sanctioned. The work relating to the modification of the terminal building is likely to be completed by July, 1987.

Direct flights between Delhi and Trivandrum

367. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :