

**Participation in the Conference of South Asian Foreign Ministers**

5573. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are participating in the Conference of South Asian Foreign Ministers at Thimpu in May, 1985;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting; and

(c) the special points which India propose to mention to persuade the other countries to accept better economic and social cooperation among the nations in South Asia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) Yes Sir. The Government of India are participating in the Third meeting of Foreign Ministers of South Asian Countries to be held at Thimphu in May 1985.

(b) The main items in the agenda of the meeting include a review of the progress in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action, preparations for the First SARC Summit and a review of the world economic situation.

(c) India has been playing an active part in promoting South Asian Regional Cooperation. It hosted the first meeting of Foreign Ministers in New Delhi in August 1983 when the SARC Declaration was signed and the Integrated Programme of Action was launched. It held the Chairmanship during the crucial first year and also hosted the First Meeting of the SARC Standing Committee. India is the Chairman of the Technical Committees on Meteorology and Sports, Arts and Culture. It has participated in the meetings of all Technical Committees and has made an active contribution towards the formulation and implementation of programmes of cooperation in various fields. We propose to continue our active participation in all SARC activities. We are laying special emphasis on the need for formulating concrete regional projects in the agreed areas of cooperation. Among the specific

initiatives we propose to take in the future, are the convening of a South Asian Archaeological Congress in October 1985 and organisation of a South Asian Cultural Festival in November 1985 on the occasion of the India International Trade Fair.

**Maintenance of Centrally Protected Monuments in Karnataka**

5574. SHRI H. G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the maintenance of the Centrally Protected monuments in Karnataka during Sixth Plan period; and

(b) which are those monuments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The amount spent on the maintenance of protected monuments in Karnataka during the Sixth Plan period is Rs. 1,00,06,531.

(b) A List is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT-1106/85]

**Cyclone Radar at Coastal Areas of Andhra Pradesh**

5575. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to install cyclone radar warning stations at Chirala and coastal area of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many such radar stations have already been set-up since 1983; and

(c) the total number of such stations along the coast of the entire country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands ?

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) No Sir.

there is no proposal to install Cyclone radar station at Chirala. Coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, including the Chirala area, have already been provided with adequate radar coverage for cyclone detection.

(b) Nil. The entire network of cyclone detection radars covering east coast was completed before 1983.

(c) There are 8 numbers of such stations at Calcutta, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Madras and Karaikal on the East Coast and Goa and Bombay on the West Coast. There is no cyclone detection radar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Most of the cyclones originate between Andamans and the east coast of India and travel away from Andamans and Nicobar Islands. The Andaman Islands and the Bay of Bengal surrounding are well covered by INSAT weather surveillance.

#### Computerised Reservation System at Airports

5576. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Airports where computerised Reservation system has been commissioned;

(b) whether there have been frequent break downs in the computerised Reservation system in some airports;

(c) if so, the name of the airports where such system has suffered a set back; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the bottleneck ?

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

(a) Indian Airlines has commissioned the computerised reservation system at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras airports.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. However, there was one isolated case of breakdown at Bombay airport on 15.4.1985 when the two data circuits between Bombay and Computer Centre at Palam had broken down between 0025 hrs, and 1345 hrs. In order to overcome such situations in future one more data circuit is being procured from P and T Department which would

minimise the occurrence of total communication link failure.

[Translation]

#### Problem of Forest Fires

5577. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are giving very serious thought to the problem of forest fires;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any joint project to check it; and

(c) if so, the time by which this project will be ready and annual expenditure involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project entitled 'Modern Forest Fire Control' has been formulated for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 127 crores inclusive of UNDP assistance of US\$4.11 millions.

(c) The project has come into operation and for 1985-86 the total outlay is Rs. 163.58 lakhs.

[English]

#### Sanction of Extra Battalion of BSF for West Bengal

5578. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACARYYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction extra battalion of Border Security Force for West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the present position and what progress has been made so far in the matter; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to implement the proposal ?