

indicate that the National Youth Day was observed in all the States..

**Flights of British Airways
through Calcutta**

1207. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether British Airways have cut down their flights through Dum Dum Airport from four to one per week ;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the Airline for their avoiding Calcutta, despite Government of India's assurances to the contrary ; and

(c) whether the responsibility for this situation is due to negative attitude of travel agents, officials and businessmen ?

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

(a) British Airways are presently operating two services per week to/through Calcutta. In their Summer schedule effective from April 1985, they propose only one service per week to/through Calcutta.

(b) They have not given any reason for reducing the frequency of their service to one.

(c) No, Sir.

Preservation of Forests

1208. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The steps Government propose to take to preserve the forests of the country, which has so far being destroyed on account of excessive felling of trees and burning of Jungles for the purposes of charcol ; and

(b) the steps the Union Government propose to take for afforestation of barren areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) The following steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken to conserve the forests in the country :—

- (i) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has been enacted to check diversion of forest lands to non-forest purposes.
- (ii) Guidelines have been issued to the States and Union Territories for the preparation of working (management) plans, the working of forests, and to strengthen the enforcement machinery at the field level.
- (iii) The National Forest Policy is being reviewed with a view to provide the needed thrust in favour of forest conservation and to create a massive peoples' movement for this purpose.
- (iv) An indepth study is being undertaken with a view to work out the modalities for relieving the pressures on forests, specially by encouraging the use of substitute materials.

(b) During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), it is proposed to step up substantially the pace of afforestation in the country. A National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is being established to plan and coordinate all matters concerning the health and scientific management of the land resources of the country. A National Wastelands Development Board, is being set up with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land under fuelwood and fodder plantations.

**Forest Project to check soil
erosion by Gandhi Sugar
and Chambal rivers**

1209. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :