

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 :

(a) whether a Forest Project has been launched to check and reduce soil erosion by Gandhi Sagar and Chambal rivers and if so, the area under this project ;

(b) the number of employees working in this Forest Project ;

(c) whether even after launching this project, deforestation has increased and the forests have nearly been destroyed ; and

(d) further steps Government propose to take to protect forests and check soil erosion under this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) A Centrally sponsored scheme of soil Conservation in the catchments of various rivers including Chambal has been under implementation since 1962 to check soil-erosion. The Chambal river has a catchment area of 2.6 million hectares and includes the catchment area of Gandhi-sagar.

(b) The total number of employees working under the scheme in Chambal catchment is 443.

(c) The local demands for fuelwood and cattle fodder exceed the sustainable capacity of the forests, which is tending to have an adverse effect on them.

(d) The following important steps have already been taken to protect the forests and to check soil-erosion :—

(i) Patrolling vulnerable forest areas through special teams to prevent illicit cutting of trees.

(ii) Intensifying soil conservation and afforestation programmes.

(iii) Undertaking the programme of social forestry inclusive of farm forestry on an extensive scale in non forest areas to supplement the supply of fuelwood and fodder and thereby mitigate pressure on forests.

Criteria for Giving Tribal Status to a Particular Area

1210. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the grounds on which people of an area or community are given tribal status;

(b) the names of areas and communities the people of which were declared as tribals during the last five years and reasons thereof ; and

(c) the names of areas and communities which are presently demanding tribal status and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The general criteria followed to give tribal status to any community under Article 342 of the Constitution are (i) Indications of primitive traits, (ii) distinctive culture, (iii) geographical isolation, (iv) shyness of contact with the community at large and (v) backwardness.

(b) No new community was declared as Scheduled Tribe during the last five years.

(c) The proposals received from the State Governments are being considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and at this stage, are not disclosed in the public interest.

[Translation]

Deployment of BSF and CRPF to Check Culprits From Nepal

1211. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Jai Nagar district Madhubani and district Sitamarhi are situated on the borders of Nepal;