

Environment. It will be considered as and when it is received.

(c) No other project for the District of Rajnandgaon is pending with the Department of Environment.

T.A. bills for visiting senior officials of-Air India in London

1287. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chairman of Air-India had received personally in Westbury Hotel in London on November 19, 1984 a complaint by a non-resident Indian based in London regarding T.A bills drawn for visiting senior officials of Air-India in London ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether his attention had been drawn to a report published in this regard in 'Business Standard' (Calcutta) of 11 February, 1985 ;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been looked into by CBI and report received ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the action taken thereon ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Balwant Singh Kapur, said to the Special Correspondent of Associated Journals (Europe), in a letter dated 19-11-1984 addressed to the Chairman, Air-India, *inter alia* alleged that an amount of £ 490 for hired conveyance which should have been paid by a senior visiting official of Air-India, had been paid by Air-India, and shown under a false heading.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). A letter dated 10-1-1985 from the same correspondent enclosing therewith a photocopy of his letter addressed to the Chairman, Air-India, has been received in CBI. The matter is under verification.

Hazards of Nuclear Power Plans

1288. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the view that Nuclear Power Plants pose no hazards or lease hazards as claimed by Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and two other scientists and if so, reasons for setting up a separate Board for Nuclear Power only (Newstime 4.2.85) ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the famous 7-Mile Nuclear Power incident in USA a few years back and whether any analysis has been made by India to confirm that these fears were baseless ; and

(c) whether the true position of dangers *vis-a-vis* need for nuclear power plants in India has been spelt out and made known to the people at large ?

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) Over 3100 reactor years of operation of nuclear power plants around the world have showed that nuclear power is basically clean, reliable and safe. This has been possible by compliance with strict regulatory measures. As our nuclear power programme is expanding rapidly, an independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board was constituted in 1983 to maintain this good record. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board carries out regulatory and safety functions envisaged under the Atomic Energy Act 1962. to lay down safety standards and frame rules and regulations, to ensure

compliance with safety codes and standards during the design, construction and operation of nuclear facilities. The Nuclear Power Board has been constituted to implement the nuclear power programme in the country including design, engineering, construction and operation of nuclear power stations.

(b) It should be noted that no fatalities resulted from the Three Mile Island incident. Reports by the concerned U.S. authorities regarding the incident at Three Mile Island have been received and studied by the authorities in India. Besides, immediately after the Three Mile Island incident the Department of Atomic Energy constituted a Committee to draw appropriate lessons from the incident. These lessons have been applied in the design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants in India.

(c) The Department of Atomic Energy participates in open discussions on nuclear safety and continues to make relevant information available to the public.

Bungling In Centaur Hotel

1289. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news items appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 15th January, and 16th February, 1985 pointing out alleged financial bungling, misuse of materials, misuse of foreign exchange and other irregularities in the Centaur Hotel, Delhi.

(b) if so, whether he got the matter investigated and fixed responsibility for the various irregularities pointed out therein ; the outcome thereof and remedial measures taken ;

(c) whether Government had at any stage considered a proposal to bring the Centaur Hotel at Bombay and Delhi

under the control of the India Tourism Development Corporation, the other public undertaking in his Ministry, to ensure its better working and thereby cut down its overheads ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegations mentioned in the news item were investigated and it was found that there was no substance in them.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. This question was considered and taking all relevant factors into account it was decided to keep the identities of Hotel Corporation of India Ltd, and India Tourism Development Corporation separate.

Pakistan Efforts to Make Bomb

1290. SHRI A.P. SETHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that United States of America has expressed its feeling that Pakistan has not abandoned its efforts to make the atom bomb and that any nuclear activity by the South Asian country would be counter-productive ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Richard P. Cronin, an expert on South Asian Affairs, had recently visited India and expressed his views in this regard ;

(c) whether he has also said that U.S. Government had told Pakistan not to make the bomb and instead depend on Washington for its security ; and

(d) if so, the details regarding his views in this regard ?