

Air Service between Bangalore and Calicut

682. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce air service between Bangalore and Calicut; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inter-City train Between Ahmedabad and Surat

683. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start short distance inter-city train between Ahmedabad-Surat -Ahmedabad particularly in the morning and evening period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Small Family Norms

684. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of new incentives have been announced the Government recently as part of revised strategy for increased acceptance of small family norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such incentives are proposed to be given to retired Government servants having two children especially daughter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). To impart a new thrust and dynamism to the family welfare programme, a Draft Action Plan has been evolved in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. One of the important elements of this action Plan is the Proposal for developing an innovative package of incentives/disincentives for promotion of small family norm. No details have as yet been finalised in this regard, as the Package of incentives/disincentives is Proposed to be adopted through further consultations with States/UTs, and other concerned ministries/Departments in the Central Government. Many suggestions, such as evolving social security mechanisms for acceptors of small family norm with only female children are still in the consideration stage.

National River Action Plan

685. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake a National River Action Plan with the object of clearing river water pollution in the country; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the estimated cost, the names of the States involved as well as the names of rivers identified in the country which have been classified as highly polluted ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A National River Action Plan for abatement of pollution in the identified grossly polluted stretches of major rivers of the country is under formulation. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Himalayan action Plan

686. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts on the energy and environment issues have recommended to the Government to formulate the 'Himalayan action plan' which will prove fruitful in saving the Himalayas from destruction and devastation, recently in a two-day national workshop on energy and Environment issues in mountain development;

(b) if so, the details of the other recommendations and suggestions made to the Government in this regard:

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b). Attention has been drawn to workshop entitled "Energy and Environment issues in mountain development" organised recently by the Tata Energy Research Institute and HP Energy Development Agency (Himurja) at Shimla. The recommendations of this workshop inter-alia included a 'Na-

tional Action plan'; on the Himalayan rehabilitation. The other recommendations included development of a data-base of natural resources, promotion of renewable energy technologies, regional environment facility for hill areas, model bio-villages as demonstration centres, annual environment audit of industrial units, strengthening/creation of environment cells in all Hill states, environment management plans, nodal agency and budget-head for environment and energy systems, integrated land and water management policy, conservation of mountain ecosystems, strengthening legal and administrative machinery, environment friendly urbanization and networking of energy and environment experts and institutions.

(c) In regard to the recommendations of the workshop, the government had already initiated a number of programmes for environmental conservation and sustainable development in the Himalayan region. These include the following:

- Govind Ballabh Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan (Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development) has been established as an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of environment & Forests, Government of India to enhance the knowledge for evolving effective strategies for management of natural resources and sustainable development in the Indian Himalaya.
- An Integrated action-Oriented Research Development and Extension Programme in the Himalayan Region has been launched. This programme is for socio-economic development of hill people in harmony with eco-