

(a) whether UAE detained forty Indians for nearly fifty days and deported them back to India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 3, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 40 Indians who were working at Al-Burami, an Omani town bordering UAE, had crossed over to Al-Ain, which is a few kilometers away on the UAE side. It is understood that no visa is required for such a movement. In the wake of tragic happenings at Ayodhya, several violent incidents took place in Al-Ain. As a result the UAE authorities had arrested a large number of people who did not have proper travel documents and visas in Al-Ain area. The 40 persons were among those arrested by the UAE authorities in Al-Ain. The 40 arrested Indians pleaded for repatriation to Al-Puraimi on the ground that they had valid travel documents and permission to stay in Oman. It is understood that some discussions on the subject took place between the Immigration authorities of UAE and Oman. Considerable efforts were also made by our Missions in Abu Dhabi and Muscat to facilitate return of these detainees to Oman. In the prevailing situation, Omani authorities were, however, not agreeable to allow re-entry to the 40 detainees. The UAE authorities therefore decided to repatriate all the 40 persons to India. The insistence of 40 detainees to return to Oman caused some delay in the issue of temporary travel documents and their final repatriation to India. The detainees finally arrived in India towards the end of January 1993.

(c) The Government has taken up the matter through diplomatic channels and our Mission in Muscat is in constant touch with Omani Government as well as the sponsors to work out a viable solution for their return to Oman. It is now understood that due to

our Mission's efforts, the sponsors have so far agreed to take back three of the forty Indian nationals.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Facilities in Dholpur and Bharatpur

875. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any time-limit to ensure implementation of the proposed Chambal lift-scheme to provide irrigation facilities in Dholpur-Bharatpur area of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Since Chambal lift scheme comprises a cluster of minor irrigation works, the State Government was advised to take up this scheme under minor irrigation sector which do not require approval of Central Government for implementation.

[*English*]

Air services to Rourkela from Calcutta and Ranchi

879. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to resume air services to Rourkela from Calcutta and Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Commercial and opera-