

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any repercussion of it on the functioning of the UNESCO and the UN system in the inter-dependent thermo-nuclear world of to-day; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) United States withdrew from UNESCO on December 31, 1984.

(c) The withdrawal of a Member State from UNESCO adversely affects the principle of universality which is important for the achievement of the objective of international organisations of the UN System. A number of Western developed countries have also emphasised the urgent need for changes in UNESCO's functioning, and some of them have indicated their intention to review their participation in, or relationship with UNESCO if adequate changes of the type they desire are not carried out. As the US share of assessed contributions to UNESCO's budget was 25%, their withdrawal will also result in a serious budgetary shortfall. This may naturally necessitate the curtailment of some of UNESCO's programmes.

(d) India and other non-aligned countries have expressed full support for and confidence in UNESCO. We are taking an active part in UNESCO's Executive Board and its Temporary Committee which have recommended several concrete and constructive steps for the improvement of UNESCO's functioning. India has agreed to forego US \$ 407,245 which had accrued to it due to currency fluctuations on our earlier contributions. Several other countries have also taken similar steps to assist UNESCO to meet its immediate financial problems.

India and other non-aligned countries regret the withdrawal or threats of withdrawal by certain countries from UNESCO. We are determined to continue to work for the attainment of the ideals of

UNESCO and for the strengthening of the United Nations and the inter-governmental organisations of the UN family.

[*Translation*]

#### Shifting of Kota Airport in Rajasthan

2540. SHRI VISHNU MODI :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

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

(a) whether Kota airport in Rajasthan is surrounded by an area having more than 3 lakhs population;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered shifting this airport to somewhere else;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme prepared by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) No, Sir. Some industrial units have however, come up in the city's outskirts on one side of Kota airport.

(b) to (d). As the industrial units do not pose any threat to the safety of current aircraft operations, there is no plan at present for shifting the airport.

[*English*]

#### "Steps to Check Pollution in Big Cities"

2541. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the increasing pollution in big cities with specific reference to Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : The steps taken to check increasing pollution in big cities include the following :—

1. Persuading industries to adopt pollution control measures.