

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Lanka getting UK arms, gunships-new move to combat rebels, appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated 4 February, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the threat to India posed by this acquisition by Sri Lanka ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this behalf ?

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

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The Government of India have taken note of the recent Sri Lankan efforts at securing arms and ammunition from abroad. These acquisitions pose no threat to India.

Inclusion of Darjeeling in Trekking programme

46. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to organise Trekking programmes by his Ministry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether his Ministry is aware that the Darjeeling is a best place for trekking ;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has included Darjeeling in the programme ;

(e) if so, details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (f). The Department of Tourism is not directly organising trekking programmes in the country. However, for the development and promotion of trekking in the Himalayan States, the Department provides assistance for the purchase of equipment and other infrastructural facilities. During 1982-83 an amount of Rs. 1.52 lakhs was released to the Govt. of West Bengal for purchase of trekking/camping equipment for Darjeeling in the Himalayan Region.

Tourism Programme of Government

47. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the Tourism programme of the Government; and

(b) the salient feature of this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). Promotion of a tourism is a continuous process. The programmes and measures being taken in this regard include selective approach to development of tourism infrastructure particularly in centres falling along the identified travel circuits, expansion of tourist attractions including floodlighting of monuments, development of beach resorts, mountain resorts and winter sports, will life tourism, sports tourism such as water sports, mountaineering & trekking etc., improvement and preservation of national heritage areas to increase cultural tourism, provision of facilities at cultural tourism centres, development of buddhist tourism, provision of economy class accommodation for the tourists, construction of Yatrikas/Dharamshalas at pilgrim centres and improvement in the quality and availability of surface transport facilities. The programme also includes