

Mr. Parimal Dev resident of village Usha Bazar and Mr. Parimal Sarkar of village Gardhigram inadvertently entered Bangladesh from Narayanpur village on the Indian side and were apprehended by the Bangladesh Rifles.

(c) The PSF Commandant lodged a protest with his counterpart and requested that the two Indian nationals be returned.

A Company Commander level meeting was held on 20th February, 1986 and a flag meeting at the battalion Commander level on 25th February, 1985. The Bangladesh side has informed the BSF that the two Indian students who had been apprehended on the Bangladesh side of the border would be tried as per local laws.

To pursue the matter further, BSF sought a meeting at the Sector Commanders level between DIG BSF Tripura and Sector Commander BDR Comilla on 7th March. The Sector Commander BDR, however, failed to turn up for the meeting.

Government will continue its efforts to obtain the release of the two Indian nationals.

Flouting of Safety Rules by Indian Airlines

63. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' 19th February 1985 under the caption "I. A. flouting, safety rules";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action Government have taken to follow safety rules in the Air India and Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item mentions that flight safety is being ignored by Indian Airlines and refers in this regard to the following: (i) Flying of aircraft without a Certificate of Airworthiness, (ii) Under-staffing in Indian Airlines Corporation, (iii) Non-maintenance of Minimum Equipment List (M. E. L.), (iv) scuffing of Tyres, (v) Overlanding of HS-748 aircraft and (vi) Absence of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMES)

(c) and (d). The contents of the news item were examined and it was found that there had been no violation of rules affecting the safety of aircraft.

(e) The airlines are required to follow the prescribed procedures strictly, and this is monitored by the Director General of Civil Aviation through spot checks and a system of mandatory reporting of major defects/incidents/accidents etc. These are promptly investigated by the Director General of Civil Aviation and necessary preventive/corrective actions are taken including punitive action, wherever breach of regulations is involved.

Proposal to Boost Tourism Under South India Programme

64. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to boost tourism under South India programme;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

(c) the extent to which it will attract tourists ;

(d) the amount of funds, if any, allocated for the programme ; and

(e) the foreign exchange likely to be earned from this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c). Measures taken by the Government to boost tourism to South India include the opening of central Tourists Offices at Bangalore, Cochin and Hyderabad, the provision of funds tourism-oriented infrastructure improvement projects to be undertaken by State Governments and promotional and publicity efforts by the Department's overseas offices to promote such South Indian destinations along with destinations in other parts of the country. Also in preparing itinerary for tours of media representatives, television and film makers and travel agents from abroad who are invited as Departmental guests, selected destinations in South India of special tourist importance are included. Recently, a special tour of South India by 13 top European travel agents was organised and seminar was held at Kovalam Beach, in February, 1985.

As a part of our charter policy, Department has cleared direct landing of charters at Madras and Trivandrum.

Additionally, Indian Airlines allow rebate of 30 per cent on tickets bought by foreign tourists covering South Indian destinations starting from Madras.

(d) In addition to the hospitality programme, Department of Tourism also assist the state Governments in schemes of promotional nature and has released an amount of Rs.72 lakhs to the Southern States during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(e) The foreign exchange earnings are not measured in terms of a specific State or region. However, according to an RBI estimates the total foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years have been as follows :—

	Rs. in crores
1979-80	920.0
1980-81	1166.3
1981-82	1063.9
1982-83	1130.6

“Delhi the Third Grubbliest city in the World”

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

(a) whether according to a World Health Organisation study, Delhi is the third grubbliest city in the World ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to see that the situation does not worsen in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) No such conclusive finding has been brought to the attention of the Government. However, according to a WHO study on urban air pollution, the suspended particulate matter (air-borne dust) in Delhi is considerably high in certain parts of the city on account of natural conditions and industrial activities.

(b) The steps being taken include the following :

(i) The industries are pursued to instal pollution control equipment and legal actions are taken against the erring units ;