

- (v) The performance of the officer as revealed in his ACRs has also the seniority are given due weightage;
- (vi) The nominations are made keeping in view the training needs of the officer and his long term career planning;
- (vii) Officers against whom vigilance/disciplinary proceedings are pending and those whose over-all performance has been below average should not be nominated;
- (viii) The claims of officers belonging to SC/ST and other backward classes are given due consideration while making selections of officers for foreign training programmes.

Delay in Indian Airlines Flights

4272. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of times the Indian Airlines flights have been delayed during 1984-85, due to technical reasons;
- (b) the number of flights delayed each time, each day on account of technical problems; and
- (c) whether Government propose to have standby aircraft to immediately take-over for delayed flights due to technical reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) (b). During the year 1984, 1386 Indian Airlines flights out of a total of 1,02,227 flights were delayed due to technical reasons, which represents 1.36% of the total flights, Out of an average of 280 take-offs per day, the number of flights delayed due to technical reasons was 3.7.

(c) No, Sir. It is neither practical nor economically viable to have standby aircraft at different stations for this purpose.

Deforestation in Western Ghat

4273. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of trees that are felled annually in the Western Ghat region;

(b) the approximate area that is annually deforested, and the extent of area deforested so far;

(c) the extent of replantation undertaken in this region; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by the Union Government to curb future deforestation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) The steps taken by the Union Government to curb deforestation are as under :

- (i) The Forest (Concervation) Act, 1980, has been enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest lands to non-forest uses.
- (ii) Guidelines have been issued to the States and Union Territories for the preparation of working (management) plans and the working of forests.
- (iii) The States and Union Territories have been advised to strengthen the enforcement machinery at the field level.
- (iv) The National Forest Policy is being reviewed to provide the needed thrust in favour of forest conservation and to create a people's movement for this purpose.
- (v) A massive programme of afforestation is proposed to be undertaken; and
- (vi) An in-depth study is being undertaken with a view to work out the modalities for relieving pressure on forests, specially by encouraging the use of substitute materials.
- (vii) As a measure to relieve pressure on forest resources, fiscal steps have also been taken. Import of pulp and wood chips, by user industries, has been exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on wood in certain specified forms has been reduced from 100% to 10%.