

facilities at tourist places are taken up by the State Government, they have no such proposal at present.

Refuelling of US Air Force Planes

*86. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI M. S. PAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the US air force planes to use Indian air space and also extended refuelling facilities at Bombay and other airports in the country en-route to the Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement was signed with the US for extending such facilities;

(d) if so, the respective dates on which such agreement was first signed and later renewed;

(e) the number of aircraft refuelled so far and quantity and cost of fuel used;

(f) whether it was ensured that these aircraft did not carry any weapons, arms and ammunition;

(g) the reasons for deviation from the well-established non-aligned policy of the Government not to take sides with any of the warring factions; and

(h) whether Iraq has lodged a protest against this permission and if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 120 US Air Force aircraft were permitted to overfly India Air Space in Septem-

ber 1990, and 136 aircraft were allowed transit and refuelling facilities during January and February 1991.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the present context, 136 United States Air Force transport aircraft have been given transit and refuelling facilities in January and February, 1991, and approximately 32 lakh litres of fuel has been supplied. The cost of the fuel is being ascertained and will be laid on the table of the House.

(f) The refuelling of these transport aircraft was permitted on a clear assurance from the US Government that the flights would be used for the sole purpose of carrying non-lethal supplies and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds;

(g) The Government of India's decision does not detract in any manner. India's well-established non-aligned policy.

(h) No formal protest has been received from Iraq by the Government of India, but the Government has noted the statement made by the Iraqi Ambassador to India. Government have explained to the Iraqi authorities that the flights were not directed at aiding the war effort and were permitted for the sole purpose of transporting non-lethal supplies and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds.

[English]

Violation of Quality Norms by Fertilizer Manufacturers

*87. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: