

(a) whether the International Airlines Trade Association has announced that several airports in the world are not doing enough to foil terrorists ;

(b) if so, whether a meeting of Airlines security experts of several countries had discussed the various new devices in this regard at Montreal recently ; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and further steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c). The Government are not aware of any announcement from the said International Airlines Trade Association. An emergency meeting of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Security Advisory Committee was, however, held in Montreal on 28th June, 1985 wherein Air India was also represented. The meeting had discussed further security measures to be taken in view of threats and incidents of terrorism. It was agreed to hold an IATA Technical Committee meeting to go into the testing of various security equipments and submit the recommendations to the Airlines. Further action would be taken after the meeting of the Technical Committee and receipt of its recommendations by the Airlines.

Second Meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission

*31. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Pakistan delegation headed by the Foreign Minister visited India recently for the second meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission on the process of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting and steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

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

(b) Some progress was made at this meeting. Among the decisions taken and recommendations made were :—(i) the signing of an agreement on cooperation in agricultural research ; (ii) consideration of the draft text for a Cultural Agreement ; (iii) waiver of the requirement of Police reporting in respect of bonafide businessmen and holders of transit visas ; (iv) finalisation of through railway booking facilities between designated railway stations with effect from 1st Oct, 1985 ; (v) agreement on setting up of a working group for cooperation in the field of planning to be preceded by a seminar in Islamabad on the same subject ; and (vi) agreement on exchange of information to check the illegal trafficking in narcotics.

Government will remain in touch with Pakistan authorities for timely implementation of the various decisions and with a view to pursuing the other proposals made by India.

Improving of Ties with U.S.A.

*32 SHRI K. PRADHANI :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS
MUNSI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have had recently a series of talks at different levels with the United States of America to establish better ties with that country ;

(b) if so, the main issues that figured in the discussions ;

(c) the response of the U.S. Government to improve ties with India ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The main issues discussed were recent developments in our region having an adverse impact on our security environment, bilateral trade, economic and technological collaboration, including cooperation in Science and Technology, and major world problems of peace, disarmament and development.