

(b) if so, whether very few passengers avail to the benefit of the recently started Vayudoot services;

(c) if so, the programme chalked out by the Government to give wider publicity while starting a new Vayudoot service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Vayudoot gives adequate publicity while starting a new service.

(b) No, Sir. Considering the gestation period involved in new operations, the load factor of the new services operated by Vayudoot has been up to expectations.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Subsidy to Encourage Growth of Hotel Industry

***332. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a new scheme under which it has been decided to give a subsidy of 5 per cent on loans and advances by financial institutions to encourage growth of the hotel industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). In order to encourage growth of hotels of different categories the Government is considering a scheme of providing interest subsidy on loans advanced by financial institutions to hotels of all categories. Under the scheme 4 and 5-Star hotels will get an interest subsidy of 2 per cent; 3-Star hotels an interest subsidy of 3 per cent; 2-Star hotels at the rate of 4 per cent and 1-Star category of hotels will be entitled to an interest subsidy at the rate of 5 per cent. Other details of the scheme are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Return of Kohinoor

*** 335. SHRI R. M. BHOYE :** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government have carried on any correspondence with the British Government for the return of 'Kohinoor' diamond; and

(b) if so, the response of British Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Environmental Management

***336. SHRI YASAWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL :**
SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether creation of public awareness is necessary for successful environmental management; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to educate the people about environment and its importance in day to day life ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken include :

Incorporating environmental themes in educational curricula.

Support to seminars, symposia, Workshops and conferences.

Organising essay, painting and photography competitions for children on environmental themes.