

(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 pay 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.

Production of films and audio-visuals.

Organisation of co-development camps focusing on environmental activities and themes.

Setting up of National Museum of Natural History (New Delhi) and Centre for Environmental Education (Ahmedabad).

Maintenance of Kanchanjunga National Park in Sikkim

*337. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kanchanjunga National Park in Sikkim is the highest altitude located National Park in the world; and

(b) if so, the measures Union Government have taken to help maintain the Park so as to protect and preserve the flora and fauna there and also to attract tourists ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) The national park encompassing the highest altitude in the world is the Sagarmatha National Park in Nepal, which includes Mount Everest.

(b) Management of the National Park is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government have been providing financial assistance since 1977-78 to the State Government of Sikkim, for the development of the Kanchanjunga National Park. During the Sixth Plan period an amount of Rs. 11.37 lakhs was provided for this purpose. As the park is situated in a restricted area, it is not considered feasible to attract tourists.

U. S. Policy on Military Aid

*338. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shift in U. S. policy on military aid to Pakistan and other countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this change; and

(c) whether this is expected to further improve the relations between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) There is no shift in U. S. policy on military aid to Pakistan. We have noted that the latest Foreign Aid Authorisation Bill has recommended some changes in respect to certain countries.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has expressed its concern over the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan on many occasions and at all levels. This supply, we have pointed out to the US Government, leads to diversion of scarce resources from development to defence and leads to an arms race in the Sub-continent. An understanding by U. S. A. of India's concern over arms supply to the region will have a positive impact on Indo-US relations.

Development of Forest in Tribal Areas

*340. SHRI AMARSINH RATHWA :
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an advisory panel for the development of forests in the country and particularly in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be established and start functioning ?

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

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Electronics Component Development Fund

*343 SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: