

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. The Union Public Service Commission has found, on the basis of information furnished by the candidates, that nearly 50% of the successful candidates in the Civil Services Examinations held in 1982 and 1983 could be categorised as being from rural areas when the place of birth is taken as the criterion for categorising candidates as from rural areas or from urban areas. If residence in a village for the first 15 years of life is taken as the criterion, the percentage of candidates from rural areas works out to about 33-1/3% for the two years. If the place of residence of parents/guardian during the last 15 years is taken as the criterion, the percentage of candidates from rural areas works out to about 40% and 35% for the years 1982 and 1983 respectively.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Afforestation Programme

\*418. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the area covered for new afforestation programme during Sixth Plan;

(b) the area reported to have been deforested during Sixth Plan;

(c) the national target for afforestation during Sixth Plan and the extent to which it was achieved; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent on new afforestation programme in West Bengal during Fifth Plan and Sixth Plan period ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) An area of 4.65 million hectares has been afforested during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(b) 27,668 hectares of forest land was diverted to non-forest use between 25.10.1980 and 31.3.1985 under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Information is not available about the loss of tree cover on account of illicit fellings and encroachment.

(c) The target of afforestation fixed for the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan was 891 crore seedlings, against which the distribution achieved was 930 crore seedlings. In terms of area this is equivalent to 4.455 and 4.65 million hectares respectively.

(d) The amount sanctioned and spent on afforestation in West Bengal during the Fifth and Sixth Five Year Plans was Rs. 9.06 crores and Rs. 46.21 crores respectively.

#### Hike in passenger fares by Indian Airlines

\*419. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) number of times the passenger fares of Indian Airlines were hiked in the last five years;

(b) percentage-wise hikes to cover increased fuel cost and increase in establishment expenses, separately; and

(c) measures Government propose to take to improve the internal efficiency of the Indian Airlines ?

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

(a) From 1980-81, till date, the fares of Indian Airlines have been increased on five occasions.

(b) While the levying of Fuel Surcharge and Additional Fuel Surcharge is directly a result of the escalation in fuel costs, increases in the Basic Fares were due to increases in operating costs which,