

(c) For increasing People's involvement in the programme, the Karnataka Government have taken up massive programme of promoting decentralised people's nurseries and school nurseries.

#### Protection of Medicinal Herbs in Garhwal Himalayas

\*35. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that despite a ban, unscrupulous traders are felling wild-growing medicinal herbs from the Tungnath area of Garhwal Himalayas ;

(b) if so, whether this felling will lead to a considerable ecological damage ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken to protect such herbs ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

It has come to notice that some species of medicinal herbs are being removed from their habitat in Tungnath area of Garhwal Himalayas which may result in ecological damage. The following steps have been taken to prevent this :

(a) The Tungnath area is covered by the Kedarnath Wild Life Sanctuary. Accordingly, full protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the flora and fauna of this area is available.

(b) Some of the species are being artificially multiplied for later rehabilitation and propagation by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the High Attitude Physiology Centre, Garhwal University,

(c) Trade and Commerce in endangered plants are not permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(d) Stricter implementation of the ban by the State Government.

#### Foreign Exchange on VCR/VCP/CTV Projects

\*36. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether manufacture of VCR/VCP has been found to involve heavy expenses foreign exchange ;

(b) if so, whether manufacture of CTV is also taking away a lot of foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the amount of foreign exchange spent during the last 3 years on VCR/VCP projects and import of C.T.V. Components ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The approximate amount of foreign exchange involved in regard to import of components for the assembly of VCRs/VCPs by the approved units during the Calendar Years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is estimated to be US \$ 8.4 Million.

The approximate amount of foreign exchange involved in regard to import of Colour Television components during the Calendar years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is estimated to be US \$ 115.5 Million.

#### Powerful Transmitter Found at a Shrine at Kartarpur

\*37. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a powerful transmitter which had jammed the Punjab Police network and resulted in

collapse of all Police Wireless communication system in Amritsar on 30 September, 1986 has been found located at a Shrine near Kartarpur about a Kilometre inside the Pakistan territory ;

(b) whether the army was asked to find out the location of the transmitter ;

(c) if so, the results of their efforts and if not, the reasons for failure to detect ; and

(d) whether any other enquiry has been conducted in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Central team of officers was sent to Punjab for on the spot enquiry. No unauthorised transmitter has been detected so far.

#### Assassination Attempt on the Punjab Police Chief

\*38. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:  
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ  
ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an assassination attempt on the Punjab Police Chief J.F. Ribeiro was recently made by the extremists at the Punjab Armed Police Headquarters ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government Condemns the terrorist attack on Shri Ribeiro. The Government is in touch with the State Government and is providing necessary assistance to curb terrorist activities.

[Translation]

#### Air Accidents.

\*39. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase recently in the number of accidents in which helicopters and other aircrafts of the Defence services were involved ;

(b) whether one such accident had taken place in the Western Sector in the recent past in which five personnel were killed ; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE . PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) There has been no increase in helicopter accidents, but an increase has occurred in aircraft accidents during the current financial year.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Chetak Helicopter met with an accident in the Western Sector on 15th September, 1986, in which two pilots and three ground crew members lost their lives.

(c) The major causes of air accidents have been identified to be human errors, technical defects and bird strike.

To reduce accidents due to human error the training scheme for pilots has been revised. Training syllabi especially with regard to instrument and night flying, have been reviewed, and standards established are being strictly monitored. The assessment and categorisation of pilots is also being reviewed. Selection tests are being modified to identify the flying aptitude and mental qualities required for service pilots.

To avoid accidents caused by technical defects due to design or manufacturing deficiencies, consultations are held with the