

(c) whether similar negotiations are also under way with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indian delegation visited Thailand from March 6 to March 8, 1985 for air services talks. The Thai authorities had been requested to issue the necessary authorisation for Indian Airlines as the second designated carrier of India to operate a twice weekly service between Calcutta and Bangkok. This request was accepted in the air services talks.

(c) and (d) Negotiations with other countries are held periodically and as and when required to review the Air Services Agreements. Arrangements are being finalised for holding air services talks with Kenya, Pakistan, Maldives, Bulgaria and Belgium.

**Withdrawal of U.S.A., U.K. and West Germany from the Membership of UNESCO**

3311. **SHRI N.V. RATNAM :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States, Britain, West Germany issued an ultimatum that they would withdraw from UNESCO within one year, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto and whether it has been conveyed to the Secretary-General of U.N.O.; and

(c) the steps taken by the U.N.O. to prevent the situation and the steps taken by Government of India in that direction ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) :** (a) The United States withdrew from UNESCO on December

31, 1984 on the alleged grounds that there was "extraneous politicisation", "hostility towards the institutions of a free society" and that UNESCO was "mismanaged." The United Kingdom has also given notice that it would withdraw from UNESCO with effect from December 31, 1985. However, it would re-consider its decision if it was satisfied by the end of the year that substantial progress had been made in carrying out the reform programme which they had suggested for UNESCO. The FRG has not given notice of withdrawal from UNESCO. They have stated that they would continue reform efforts from within, especially through the Executive Board of UNESCO.

(b) India and other non-aligned countries regret the withdrawal, or threats of withdrawal, by Member States from UNESCO as this adversely affects the principle of universality which is important for the achievement of UNESCO's objectives.

UNESCO is an intergovernmental organisation with its own constitution and legislative organ and is not a subordinate organ of the United Nations. Positions of Governments relating to developments in UNESCO are accordingly not required to be communicated to the UN Secretary-General.

(c) India and other non-aligned countries have expressed full support for, and confidence in UNESCO. We are determined to continue to work for the attainment of the ideals of UNESCO and for the strengthening of the United Nations and the intergovernmental organisations of the UN family.

The UNESCO Executive Board and the Director-General of UNESCO have taken several steps for reform of UNESCO's functioning and procedures. The consequences of U. S. withdrawal were also discussed at a Special Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in February 1985 when ways and means of adjusting UNESCO's programmes and staffing pattern were discussed. India has been taking active part in

the work of UNESCO's Executive Board and its Temporary Committee which have recommended several concrete and constructive steps for the improvement of UNESCO's functioning.

India has agreed to forego US\$ 407, 245 which had accrued to it due to currency fluctuations on our earlier contributions to UNESCO. Several other countries have also taken similar steps to assist UNESCO to meet its immediate financial problems.

#### Achievements of Antarctica Expeditions

3312. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :  
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main achievements of Antarctica Expeditions undertaken by Indian Scientists and Meteorologists during last two years;

(b) the main activities of the team at 'Dakshin Gangotri; and

(c) whether Government have received any new suggestions from the fourth team of our Scientists which has recently completed its trip successfully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Two scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been organised during the last two years. A permanently manned scientific station fully equipped with two working laboratories in the field of Biology and Meteorology have been established in Antarctica. Besides this, a field station in the hills about 70 km away from our permanent station has also been put up. A 12 member team which included 3 scientists has just returned from Antarctica after staying there for

15 months. Presently a team of 13 persons including 3 scientists is manning our station. Valuable data in the fields of meteorology, communications, biology, geology have been collected and are being analysed.

(c) Yes Sir. These will be kept as a guideline while organising the Fifth Indian Antarctic Expedition.

#### Incentives to Sugar Factories for setting up of Biogas Plants

3313. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give incentives to the sugar factories for erecting Biogas Plants attached to the distilleries; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the number and names of sugar factories which are being considered for such incentives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government supports the construction of biogas plants based on distillery effluents (spent wash) at distilleries or sugarmills-cum-distilleries. The support is upto 33% of the incremental capital cost relating to the biogas system subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs. Installation of two full scale plants have been supported accordingly at Cellulose Products (I) Ltd., Ankleshwar (Gujarat) and the Pravara Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Pravarnagar (Maharashtra). Techno-economic feasibility reports are under preparation by a number of other distilleries including sugar mill-cum-Distilleries for availing this financial support. The number of units that could be supported will depend on the financial allocations available to the Department.