

reduced air fare on Trivandrum-Gulf Sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been examined carefully by the Government. Air fares applicable on the India-Gulf sector have been fixed multilaterally at the International Air Transport Association forum and ratified by the concerned Governments, and are considered reasonable. It is not open to Air India to charge lower fares unilaterally.

Scrutiny of the list of SCs/STs

3338. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a constant demand for scrutiny of the list of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in each State;

(b) whether there is any scope for revision of the existing list of SCs and STs;

(c) when Government propose to revise the Lists; and

(d) whether the Ministry fixes any criteria for inclusion of castes in the scheduled list in respect of each State or the State Governments send the list of their own accord for President's approval ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Proposals have been received for the revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c) Comments from all the State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been invited. The present position is that all but four States have

sent their comments on the proposals for revision of the lists. The remaining four States are being reminded to expedite their comments. A final view in the matter would be taken when the comments from all the State Govts. have been received. Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament.

(d) There is a set of criteria for the inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Castes and another set of criteria for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes which are as follows :—

Scheduled Castes

Extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

Scheduled Tribes

Indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness.

In view of Articles 341 (1) and 342 (1) of the Constitution, consultation with the State Governments/U T Administrations is obligatory. The proposals received from the State Governments/U.T. Administrations are examined while keeping in view the above criteria.

Persons arrested in connection with Military Action in Punjab

3339. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons arrested in connection with the military action in Punjab;

(b) the number of students and ladies amongst them; and

(c) whether any prosecutions have been launched against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :
(a) and (b) 4712 persons including youths and ladies were apprehended during Army action upto 30.6.1984.

(c) Prosecutions have been launched against those found involved in unlawful activities.

Environmental Policy

3340. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Environmental Policy is being worked out; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) :
(a) and (b) Tiwari Committee had suggested a draft National Environmental Policy Resolution for adoption. A copy of the Resolution is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1083/85]. This has been accepted as a Policy framework to be elaborated into a Policy Resolution in due course. The broad approach to environmental items is given in the Sixth Plan and the Seventh Plan approach documents.

Briefly, the main areas of environmental concerns include the following :—

- Pollution monitoring and control;
- environmental impact assessment;
- conservation of biological diversity;
- demonstrating technologies for restoring degraded eco-systems/areas;
- promotion of environmental education, training;
- awareness, creation of environmental information systems;
- sponsoring research and development studies;

— enacting/reviewing existing environmental laws;

— encouraging States to create suitable environmental management structures and creation of advanced institutions of learning.

Vayudoot services between Imphal and Dimapur

3341. PROF. KAMSON MEIJINLUNG : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) in view of the statement made by the Prime Minister on the floor of this House on 20 March, 1985 that Vayudoot service is operated as special feeder service from the North East Region irrespective of its profit or loss, whether Government have already taken up necessary steps in this regard;

(b) if so, the number of Vayudoot services in operation in the North East region in particular and in other parts of the country in general;

(c) whether there is a proposal to introduce Vayudoot Service between Imphal and Dimapur;

(d) if so, when and how many times in a week and the approximate fare therefor; and

(e) the number of Vayudoot services to be introduced in the North East Region in the near future; the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vayudoot is operating services in the North-Eastern region on the routes—(i) Calcutta/Shillong/Gauhati/Silchar and back and (ii) Calcutta/Cooch Behar/Calcutta. It operates 16 services in other parts of the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.