

between points in Europe and Delhi commencing from the 29th October, 1982. The operation of these charters by Air India is envisaged as a part of the effort of the Government in promoting increased tourist inflow into the country. The fare for operating the charter both ways, irrespective of the number of passengers has been worked out on the basis of actual cost involved in operation.

So far, 14 charters on a weekly basis have landed in India bringing a total of 1961 tourists. This has resulted in considerable keenness on the part of the people of Europe to visit India as a tourist destination. Apart from the foreign exchange earned by Air India in terms of fare from the passengers, the foreign exchange earned by the country through expenditure incurred by these tourists in India on hotel accommodation, surface transportation, purchase of Indian made goods of various types has been significant and it is expected that if this trend is maintained, substantially more foreign exchange earning in course of time could be envisaged.

Alleged killing of Border Road Organisation Staff in Mizoram

*97. SHRI A. K. BALAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) facts about the indiscriminate killings of Border Road Organisation staff numbering about six by drunken army jawans at Lung Leh, District of Mizoram on 15th August, 1982; and

(b) the details about the whole episode?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The Border Roads Organisation

has a camp under Project 'Pushpak' at Km 13 on Serchip-Thenzawal Road in Lungleh District of Mizoram. In addition to its 15 regular employees, B.R.O. has about 150-200 casual labourers at this camp. A small detachment of Army Pioneers is posted there for guard duties.

2. 15th August, 1982, being the anniversary of the Independence Day, was a holiday. This occasion was being celebrated by all the camp personnel. Limited quantities of Rum were issued to them. The celebrations proceeded smoothly until mid-day, when the trouble started in an innocent manner with an Army Pioneer and a GREF pioneer challenging the physical prowess of each other. This led to an altercation and culminated in firing by Army Pioneers. As a result thereof, five casual labourers (and not six, as mentioned in Part (a) of the Question) died, and nine casual labourers, 3 Army Pioneers and one B.R.O. Mason sustained injuries.

The dead and injured persons were taken to the hospital.

Immediate action was taken to defuse the situation and dis-arm the Army personnel, who were taken into custody. The matter was reported to the local police. The incident has been investigated by a High level Court of Inquiry, ordered by Director General Border Roads. On the basis of the findings of this Court, Director General Border Roads has directed initiation of disciplinary action against the persons involved (severe disciplinary action against four Army Pioneers, disciplinary action against four other Army Pioneers and one B.R.O. employee and action against O.C., Army Pioneer Coy. for administrative lapses), payment of compensation to the next-of-kin of the deceased/those severely injured and review of command and control procedure of the Army Pioneers assigned to B.R.O. in consultation with Army authorities. Disciplinary action against the aforesaid persons involved is being processed by the concerned Army and B.R.O. authorities.