

been taken so that the afforestation programme may be taken up in those hills. If positive steps are taken, it can improve the environment of the desert area.

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: Yes, Sir, this is the policy of the Government. So far as the State of Rajasthan is concerned, till today the Hill Area Development Programme is pending because we are waiting for the approval of the NDC. But at the same time, the Government of India has taken other steps like the Desert Development Programme. Under this Programme, sufficient amount has been sanctioned to Rajasthan to improve and develop the desert area including the afforestation programme. This is our policy. So far as the Special Area Development Programme is concerned, apart from agriculture and agro-industry as also the afforestation, we have taken up with the State Government to see that more and more fund is provided for the Special Afforestation Programme.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, the afforestation programme for the five districts of Haryana in the foot hills of Aravali was approved by the Government more than five years back. It was a Rs. 15 crores programme financed by SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) and Sanctioned. But nothing has been done so far. Would the Government be pleased to inform us whether this project has been given up and if the approved project for the five districts of Haryana in the Aravali foot hills has been abandoned, what are the chances of Government of India taking up new programmes in Rajasthan in the Aravali hills?

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: Sir, this question pertains to the Aravali Hill area. So far as the question of the hon. Member regarding a particular area in Haryana is concerned, I need a separate question because I do not have the information about that particular programme. (Interruptions)

Disputes between I.T.D.C. and ITS Unions

*565. **SHRI T. BASHEER:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Industrial Disputes pending between the India Tourism Development Corporation and its workers/unions in various courts;

(b) the number of disputes settled by the ITDC management across the table during the last three years;

(c) the number of awards implemented by the ITDC management;

(d) the number of cases in which ITDC management have gone in appeal to Higher Courts; and

(e) whether in the past Government received any memoranda regarding industrial disputes of erstwhile Akbar Hotel and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

As on 31.3.1989, 191 industrial disputes were pending between ITDC and its workers/unions in various Courts. The details of the cases are given in the Annexure I below.

Three disputes were settled by the ITDC Management across the table during the last three years.

The ITDC Management implemented four awards.

ITDC have filed 8 appeals in different High Courts which are pending at present.

Shri V. Gopalsamy, Member of Parliament vide his letter dated 22.11.1988 invited

Government's attention to the issue relating to industrial disputes of erstwhile Akbar Hotel. The position in respect of the Points made therein is given in the Annexure II below.

ANNEXURE—I

Details of Industrial disputes pending between ITDC and its Workers Union and in various Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Cases pending in				Total
		Supreme Court	High Court	Labour Court/ Industrial Tribunals		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	—	1	49	50	
2.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	—	—	7	7	
3.	Ranjit Hotel, New Delhi	—	—	7	7	
4.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	—	—	2	2	
5.	Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	—	—	15	15	
6.	Akbar Hotel, New Delhi	—	3	9	12	
7.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	—	—	2	2	
8.	Headquarters	—	1	8	9	

Cases pending in

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Supreme Court	High Court	Labour Court/ Industrial Tribunals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi	—	—	5	5
10.	Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	—	—	12	12
11.	Ashok Travels and Tours	—	2	16	18
12.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	—	1	12	13
13.	Hotel Hassan Ashok	—	—	1	1
14.	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna	—	—	1	1
15.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok	—	—	1	1
16.	Regional Office, Bombay	—	—	5	5
17.	Regional Office, South	—	—	2	2

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Supreme Court	High Court	Labour Court/ Industrial Tribunals	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	—	2	17	19
19.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok	—	—	1	
20.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kovalam	—	2	7	9
			12	179	191

ANNEXURE—II

Position in respect of the points made in Shri V. Gopalsamy letter dated 22.11.1988 addressed to the Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 565 for 10.4.1989

Points made	Position
1. ITDC is misusing the national resources to teach a lesson to petty workers.	Most of the cases have been filed by the workers/unions. The ITDC has to defend the cases on merits.
2. The industrial disputes have increased from more than 14 to 195 within a span of 3 years.	The number of industrial disputes pertained to erstwhile Akbar Hotel employees numbering 14 only, whereas the total number of cases filed by the employees was 195.
3. Expenditure incurred on litigation besides expenditure on full-fledged Legal Department.	ITDC has nearly 10,000 employees. The Legal Department at the Corporate Office not only looks after the legal disputes but also attends to various day-to-day legal matters.
4. Ignoring deliberately the advice of the Legal Department payment of full wages without reinstating the employees as per awards—fixation of responsibility.	The awards are implemented in accordance with the orders of the Courts.
5 & 6. A Supreme Court verdict in S.K. Verma vs Mahesh Chandra has been quoted. A reference has been invited to an earlier correspondence of December, 1987 pointing out the callous, anti labour attitude of ITDC officials having questionable past records.	In most of the cases the workers/unions have gone to the courts; ITDC, however makes every endeavour to resolve issues across the table as far as possible.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first supplementary is about the long-pending labour disputes in the closed Akbar Hotel. This hotel was closed some years back. In a reply given by the then Minister Shri Jagdish Tytler in response to a Memorandum given by the MPs including myself, he assured that the ITDC management will take immediate steps to settle the long-standing disputes in the closed Akbar Hotel. Still, these disputes are pending. When the ITDC closes a hotel, the claims should be immediately settled and the disputes between the workers and the management should be immediately settled. But even the Labour Court awards have not been implemented so far. These disputes are pending for a long time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why is there a long delay in settling these disputes of a closed hotel. What steps are the Government going to take to settle the disputes without further delay?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are very actively considering the memorandum given by them and trying to solve the dispute. This is a matter which requires the consideration of more than one Departments. Moreover, they have gone to courts and some disputes are pending before the courts. That is why, this delay. But, we would certainly try to solve these problems.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, to my information actually, the management had gone to the court regarding these disputes and the labourers are dragged on to this litigation. I have got some figures regarding the industrial disputes pending with the ITDC. In 1983 there were only 47 industrial disputes between ITDC workers' union and the management. But from your reply, it is seen that now about 191 disputes are pending between the ITDC management and the workers. This clearly shows that the industrial relations in the ITDC are not up to the mark. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minis-

ter whether the Ministry will constitute a committee outside the ITDC to look into the deteriorating industrial atmosphere in the ITDC. Also, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is going to take to improve the industrial relations in the ITDC.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would not say that the industrial relations are ideal. But this is a two-way traffic. And there is a mechanism provided in the Industrial Disputes Act which has to be resorted to, to solve disputes between the workers and the management. We are trying to solve these disputes between the workers and the management by making use of mechanism which is already provided. But I would like to say that in all the cases, appeals have not been filed by the management. Appeals have been filed by the workers also. And when the appeals have been filed by the workers, the pendency, the number of pending cases increases. This is the position. At the same time, we have discussed this issue and we have asked our friends in the ITDC to see that cases which can be solved are solved. But about the cases which are really pending before the court, unless the other side also cooperates, it becomes very difficult to decide.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, the Akbar Hotel was running on profit. What was given to understand was that it was a hotel which was running under the Government as a profit-making one. It was running well. It was reported that under the PM's directives, it was closed down for being used by the External Affairs Ministry. It was only on Friday last, that is, three days back, the third death anniversary of Akbar Hotel was celebrated in its premises in Delhi. Still, 26 people are out of employment. I would like to know what are you going to do with these people who were working in a hotel which was a profit-making body. There was no reason to close it down under the industrial

law but only because of Government's policy. What are you going to do with the retrenched workers? Where are you going to re-employ them and in what period will you do it?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I don't think it is correct to say that when this was handed over to the External Affairs Ministry, it was having full occupancy and all that. However, the Government would certainly make use of the provisions of law to help the workers in the manner in which they should be helped.

Luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport

*567. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA†:**
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some loaders were involved in the luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them; and

(c) the details of arrangements made to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). Consequent upon the complaints lodged by two passengers who travelled on Indian Airlines flight ID- 263 (Calcutta-Delhi sector) of the 9th of January 1989 and flight IC- 221 (Calcutta-Bagdogra sector) of the 6th of January, 1989 about the theft of ornaments and the missing of currency respectively from their registered baggages, the police at Dum Dum (Calcutta) airport arrested seven loaders of Indian Airlines. The case is under investigation by the police.

(c) Strict vigilance is maintained over passengers' baggage and whenever any act of pilferage comes to the notice of the Indian Airlines it is investigated and disciplinary action taken.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I seek your protection Sir. My question was whether some loaders were involved in the luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport, and whether there is any involvement of some employees of the Airport. But the reply is not to the point that I wanted to know from the Minister. I would like to know whether the Government has found out any racket in that Airport.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The investigations have revealed that some loaders were involved and when their lockers were searched some bunches of keys were found which were used to open these baggages. Police have been informed about the people who were involved and action is taken.

I would not like to tar everybody with the black brush. I have given him instances in which some loaders were involved and inferences can be drawn by him from these facts.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has stated that some measures have been taken to have a strict vigilance. I would like to know whether these types of instances are also noticed in some other Airports also. This news has come out because the ornaments stolen belonged to the famous actress Supriya Devi. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of such instances in other Airports also and what concrete measures the Government proposes to take to stop them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In other Airports also one or two cases have been brought to our notice; but this is a very glaring case where ornaments worth Rs. 4 lakhs are