

MENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to unprecedented and continuous snow-fall and avalanches from 25th to 27th December, 1985, Jammu-Srinagar Highway remained closed to traffic from 26th to 30th December, 1985. The Border Roads Organisation underlook snow clearance operation thereafter and restored communication with effect from 31st December, 1985.

For proper coordination and effective traffic management on this Highway, the setting up of a Joint Control Room at Srinagar, with representatives from Army and Border Roads Organisation, has been proposed to the State Government.

Representation regarding Abolition of Sales Tax on Bangles in Delhi

1273. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred question 626 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation in January, 1986 regarding abolition of sales tax on bangles in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The matter has been considered by Delhi Administration. It has not been found possible to agree to the request for abolition of sales tax on bangles in the Union Territory of Delhi.

Forests Development Corporations in the Country

1274. SHRI SALIM ALI:
SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the densities of the country's forests have decreased as is evident from lands and aerial photography at imageries well below the minimum necessary for ecological health of a tropical country and are therefore virtually non-exploitable for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, what role has been assigned to the Forest Development Corporations in the country considering their present method of functioning;

(c) whether Government are aware of the findings of experienced ecologists, as also of a committee appointed under Dr. Mahav Gadgil by the Department of Environment in the context of introducing tropical pines, that the major threat to the so-called "degraded" natural mixed forests in the country is due to their replacement with monocultures of controversial exotics or other unsuited species; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a committee of independent experts or an on-the-spot investigation and impartial assessment of this uneconomical and ecologically destructive practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is a fact that the density of forest cover has decreased in our country. It is also a fact that on account of degradation, the forests have become non-exploitable in several parts of the country.

(b) The Forest Development Corporations have been advised to change the practice of replacing extant natural mixed forest by pulp-

wood/timber plantations to afforestation of denuded forests in line with the national priorities.

(c) The Government are aware of the adverse effects of monoculture practices and introduction of certain exotic species.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Compensation for Indians Dying in the Gulf Countries

1275. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to get compensation for the death of Indians in the Gulf countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount already got remitted to the relations of the deceased during the last three years and the compensation got settled till day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government of India through their Missions in the concerned country have taken up with the concerned Governments and employers, the question of death compensation payable to the legal heirs of deceased Indians under contractual terms of employment or under relevant local laws.

(b) The death compensation is payable to the legal heirs of the deceased. For this, the legal heirs have to obtain from the competent judicial authorities a succession certificate which has to be sent to the foreign employer/Government, as the case may be, for claiming death compensation. The amount is remitted to the legal heirs.

(c) The information is being collected from the Missions abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Papers to be Laid on the Table.

Notification of Delhi Administration Publishing The Delhi Police (Promotion and Confirmation) (Amendment) Rules, 1985

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 148 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Delhi Administration Notification No. F. 10/10/84-Home(P)/Estt., dated the 6th November, 1985, publishing the Delhi Police (Promotion and Confirmation) (Amendment) Rules, 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2131/86]

Annual Plan, 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the document entitled "Annual Plan, 1985-86". [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2133/86].

I. Notification of Ministry of Defence Publishing National Cadet Corps (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1985

II. Notification Publishing National Cadet Corps (Girls Division) (Third Amendment) Rules, 1985

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Defence, under section 13 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948:—

(i) S.R.O. No. 18(E), dated the 27th December, 1985, publishing the National Cadet Corps (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1985.