

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the attention of the Pakistan Government was again drawn to specific instances of assistance given to terrorists. The Pakistan Government has been denying giving any such assistance. However, the facts are to the contrary and their reply is not satisfactory to us.

Merger of the Indian Airlines with the Air India

*59. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the Air India and the Indian Airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hazardous radioactive element in a water cooler

*60. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a rare and hazardous radioactive element thorium was found in a water cooler in the nuclear fuel complex, Hyderabad and powder of the substance was found strewn all around the processing plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry, if any, made into the matter

and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b) A small quantity of thorium oxide powder was found mixed in a water cooler in the Nuclear Fuel Complex on 18th May, 1985. It has been ascertained after enquiries that nobody had consumed the water from that water cooler. A complaint was lodged with the police regarding the incident and, after investigations, one of the workers of the plant was suspected for this incident. The concerned employee has also been arrested and released on bail. He has also been placed under suspension. Necessary security measures have been taken so that such incidents do not recur.

Indo-Pak joint commission on bilateral issues

246. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

DR. H. P. SHARMA:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak Joint Commission recently had a meeting at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, to what extent the various bilateral issues between the two countries have been resolved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some progress was made at this meeting. Among the decisions

taken and recommendations made were :—

(i) the signing of an agreement on cooperation in agricultural research, (ii) consideration of the draft text for a Cultural Agreement, (iii) waiver of the requirement of police reporting in respect of bonafide businessmen and holders of transit visas, (iv) finalisation of through railway booking facilities between designated railway stations with effect from 1st Oct, 1985, (v) agreement on setting up of a working group for cooperation in the field of planning to be preceded by a seminar in Islamabad on the same subject, (vi) agreement on exchange of information to check the illegal trafficking in narcotics, and (vii) exchange of Radio correspondents.

Crimes against women and girls

247. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes against women and girls have been on the increase in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of crimes reported, category-wise, during each of the quarters in 1983, 1984 and so far in 1985; and

(c) what special steps are being taken to effectively curb such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN):

(a) and (b) A statement (*See below*) is laid on the Table of House.

(c) Some of the important steps taken by Delhi Police to effectively curb such crimes are as under :—

(i) Increased police vigilance at strategic places like schools, colleges, bus stops, shopping centres etc.

(ii) Intensive foot and mobile patrolling including armed patrolling with walkie-talkie sets and wireless fitted motor-cycles.

(iii) A new section 498-A IPC has been made cognizable as per criminal law amendment Act, 1983 No. 56 dated 26-12-1983 which deals with complaints regarding harassment to women by husband or relations of husband.

(iv) Public is being educated for eradication of the evil of dowry through radio, TV and other media.

(v) A short stay home has been set up by Delhi Admn. at Tihar Road, for use by women in distress to enable them to tide over their period of distress.

(vi) A Special Cell has been created in Delhi Police to deal with the incidents of Dowry deaths and bride burning under the supervision of a Dy. Commissioner of Police.

(vii) Instructions for getting the post-mortem conducted by two surgeons in Dowry death cases have been issued to eliminate chances of manipulation.