

Failure of the U.K. Government to check anti-India propaganda in Britain

236 SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

• (a) whether Government are aware of the continuous anti-India-Hindu propaganda in the U.K. by the leading Punjabi papers—Desh Pardesh, Punjab Times and Khalistan Times being published there and failure of the UK Government to check the growth, of racialism among overseas Indians; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government are aware that certain Punjabi language newspapers in the U.K. have been indulging in anti-national propaganda. Provocative material published in these newspapers has been brought to the attention of the British authorities as and when necessary. A number of further steps have also been taken to counter hostile propaganda. Meetings with the Indian community by the staff of our High Commission and by visiting Indian dignitaries have served to provide correct information, as has the wide-scale distribution, of publicity material, including articles, books pamphlets and video cassettes.

Dissemination of Information on the Importance of Environment conservation

*237. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to up an information bank to disseminate information to educate people on the importance of environmental conservation; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, an Environmental Information

Centre alongwith 10 subject oriented information sub-centres is in the process of being set up, which will furnish environmental information to policy makers, universities other institutions and persons who seek/require information from the centre.

New Air-field at Itanagar

*238. SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Arunachal Pradesh Government submitted a proposal for constructing air-field at Itanagar for domestic commercial flights;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A site near Naharlagun for the construction of a STOL airport was identified and inspected by a team of officers of the Department of Civil Aviation and Central Public Works Department in January, 1981 and the State Government was requested to acquire the land and transfer it to the Department of Civil Aviation, free of cost. The State Government subsequently indicated that it was not possible to acquire the land and suggested a site near 'DOIMUKH' as an alternative. A team of officers is being deputed to inspect the site.

(c) The time schedule of the project will be determined after the selection of a suitable site and after obtaining the requisite approval to the cost estimates.

Brain Drain

*239. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a systematic study of brain drain of scientists and technologists from India has been made during the last two decades;