

diameter such that there is good thermal contact between the tubes and the plate. It is housed in a cover box of heat insulating material and having a glass window for allowing the Sun's radiation to fall on the blackened plate. The absorber is oriented due south at an angle equal to (Latitude angle+15°) for winter use.

This absorber is connected to the storage tank, kept at a certain height; cold water at the bottom of the tank flows down to the absorber. Heated water rises to the top of the tank because of its lower density. This automatic circulation—thermosyphon as it is technically known—starts a little after sunrise and stops when the Sun goes down.

On cloudy days or when the load is more than the design value, thermostatically controlled immersion heater fixed to the tank can be pressed into service.

The manufacturing cost will vary with the market rates but it is estimated to be about Rs. 700 per unit which may be less if produced on a large scale.]

AWARD OF "PADMA VIBHUSHAN" TO SECRETARIES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

180. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken that only the retiring Secretaries of the Government of India would be awarded "Padma Vibhushan" if any award is to be given to them;

(b) whether it is a fact that police investigations on a charge of corruption are proceeding against one of the recipients of "Padma Shri" award in Delhi; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative who was responsible for recommending his name ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) There is no stipulation that Padma

Vibhushan should be awarded only to retiring Secretaries to the Government of India or if a retiring Secretary is to be given an award, it must be Padma Vibhushan.

(b) and (c) No such investigations are proceeding under any law against any person who was awarded Padma Shri in Delhi on the last Republic Day. An inquiry into the soundness of certain official acts with which several officers were concerned, including one of the recipients, is however being made.

TALKS WITH WEST GERMANY ON AIR SERVICES

181. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation visited West Germany to resume talks with that country on air services; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the talks, the two delegations reviewed the operating plans and programmes of Air India which is operating services through Frankfurt, and of Lufthansa, the German airline, which is operating services through Calcutta and New Delhi.

The delegations agreed on a liberalisation of the provisions of the Air Services Agreement. The new arrangements have secured for Air India the right of passage through Germany twice a week for the large capacity aircraft viz. Boeing 747 (Jumbo Jets).

OCCUPANCY IN ASHOKA HOTELS LTD.

182. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the occupancy in Ashoka Hotels Ltd. has shown some improvement;

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) There has been a slight improvement in the average occupancy in the Ashoka Hotels Ltd. during the period from October, 1968 onwards as compared to the earlier six-monthly period, from April to September, 1968, as will be evident from the following figures :—

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| April, | —1968—340.8 |
| May, | —1968—264.9 |
| June, | —1968—208.2 |
| July, | —1968—251.3 |
| August, | —1968—277.6 |
| September, | —1968—254.5 |
| October, | —1968—388.2 |
| November, | —1968—451.4 |
| December, | —1968—408.5 |
| January, | —1969—342.4 |
| February, | —1969—373.3 |
| (up to 14-2-69). | |

**RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN INDIA'S INTERNAL
AFFAIRS AS EVIDENCED BY THE
BROADCASTS BY RADIO MOSCOW AND
RADIO STATION PEACE AND PROGRESS
AGAINST SOME POLITICAL PARTIES
OF INDIA**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Sir, Radio Peace and Progress located in U.S.S.R., has from time to time criticised the Indian political parties and personalities in its broadcasts. The Government have drawn the attention of the Soviet Government to such references by the Radio Peace and Progress. The Soviet Government have taken the position that this Radio Station is not a Government concern but an independent organisation. They have drawn our attention to many statements and publications appearing in India which are critical of the Soviet leaders and Soviet policies and stated that their official Radio Stations and newspapers do not criticize our government or make references to which Government could take exception.

The Government have noticed that in the critical references towards India Radio Peace and Progress make considerable use of quotations from the Indian newspapers.

In view of some of the critical broadcasts on Radio Peace and Progress during the recent elections, the Government have again brought the matter to the notice of the Soviet authorities.

डा० भाई महावीर: मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर से मैं समझता हूँ मुझे तो निराशा हुई ही है किन्तु शायद ही सदन के किसी सदस्य का समाधान हुआ हो।

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : भूपेश
गुप्त का हो गया है ।

डा० भाई महावीर : गुप्त जी का हो गया हो तो मैं नहीं कह सकता। उनका तो समाधान शायद पहले से ही रखा हुआ है। मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जब हम रेडियो पीस एन्ड प्रोप्रेस के ब्राडकास्ट की बात सरकार के सामने रखते हैं, उसकी ओर हमने सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया, तो उन्होंने यह जवाब दिया जैसा एक गढ़ा गढ़ाया उत्तर हमें पहले भी दिया जाता रहा है। वही उत्तर