

[Translation]

New Air Strips in Gujarat

959. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to construct more airstrips in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Airport Authority of India have no proposal, at present, to construct new airstrips in Gujarat.

12.01 hrs.

**FELICITATIONS TO TEAM OF DOCTORS
IN ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
SCIENCES FOR DOING SUCCESSFUL
HEART-TRANSPLANTATION SURGERY.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have a few items before me. I am going to give time one after the other. Let us first listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is so much preoccupied with the national and international problems that we do not even take notice of the countless milestones being achieved in the field of human welfare, in our neighbourhood and around us. I am referring to the successful heart transplant carried out at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, by our doctors. Before this, heart transplant was not carried out in India. Even now people go abroad in large numbers and spend foreign exchange. The doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have made this possible in India. Three heart transplants have been carried out in India. The first was on 3rd of August last year. It was a remarkable achievement in the history of our nation's medical science. It was feared how many days the transplanted heart would function whether it would function at all or not? Would it get infected? But that person is healthy even after a year. He is leading a normal life and has raised the hope among others that heart transplantation is possible in India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this some more transplants have been carried out. One was carried out on 8th July, 1995 and the third on 20th July, 1995. All these people are out of danger and alive. As I have said all the initial recipients are leading a normal life. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this remarkable achievement was made possible by our doctors, nurses, technicians and orderlies in spite of the limited facilities and resources. We cannot pay them the handsome matching salary of the private clinics. But we can certainly congratulate them. I would request the Government to encourage them. They should be given incentives, so that they can make strides in the field of medical science and take India in the frontline of the nations in this field.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : Tell the names also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologise. The team was led by Dr. Venugopal. He was assisted by Dr. B. Das, Dr. Balram and Dr. Sampat Kumar. As I have said the team comprised technicians, nurses and orderlies. Such work is possible through team effort only. This team deserves our congratulation. I would like our feeling to be conveyed to the doctors. I wish the Health Minister was present here. The new Health Minister has not congratulated the team so far. The team has not been given encouragement. At times I feel that medical profession has so much been infected by politics that politicians need less medical care and politics has crept into medical profession. There should not be any politics in medical profession.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I wanted to make this announcement on some other occasion but since Mr. Vajpayee has raised it, I must congratulate him for raising this issue.

[Translation]

Shri Vajpayee has raised a very important issue. The entire nation is proud of this achievement and is also proud of its doctors. This issue does not relate to my Ministry. He commented that the Health Minister should have been present here. After the third heart transplant by Dr. Venugopal, I felt that the nation needs more such doctors and specially Dr. Venugopal. Then I decided. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The House should congratulate other doctors all over India. We would like to compliment them... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : On behalf of the Ministry I decided that if Dr. Venugopal wishes to do

further research, specially in America and other places then he would get a first class ticket, courtesy Air India, so that he may feel encouraged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is very good that this matter was brought to the notice of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and responded in a very appropriate manner by the Civil Aviation Minister joining his word of praise and a very effective way of congratulating it. The entire House is of the view that the doctors have done very well and done pride to the country. We would like to make it a matter of record that we appreciate it very much and congratulate them from the bottom of our hearts and wish them all the best. This will be communicated to the concerned doctors.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the donor was a woman.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, ladies constitute the better half.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, transplanting a woman's heart in a man made no difference...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He will be an ideal person representing the best in both...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : In my view, it is not the heart transplantation but brain transplantation that makes a difference.

...(Interruptions)...

12.09 hrs.

RE : DISSOLUTION OF LOCAL BODIES IN ORISSA

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. Government of

Orissa, before the expiry of the term, has dissolved the panchayat samitis and panchayats. Sir, you know that before passing of the Constitution Amendment, Orissa was the first State where Panchayat Act was implemented with 30 percent reservation for woman and 30 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This was appreciated at that time and still there are two more years for their term to get completed. But the new Government, which never held panchayat elections during their ten-year tenure, has dissolved it now.

Sir, I would have been happy if there would have been some lacunae and then if the Government had brought forward this Model Bill and passed it in the House. And if it would have dissolved after that, then it would have been a thing to be appreciated. But the approach that has been taken is against the principle of de-centralisation, against the principles which we upheld. The very tendency to rule the country in a particular manner has destroyed the very democratic fabric of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, you have to be very brief.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, it is a very serious issue. This Government which talks of Panchayati Raj, de-centralisation of administration their party in Orissa is behaving in such a manner which is destroying the very basic fabric of Panchayati democracy. That is what is of serious concern for the whole country. It is because this Parliament had passed the Bill giving the Panchayats the right to rule. Moreover, the huge funds which have been allocated for the rural development of the people, would now be...

MR. SPEAKER : There are many other issues also. We would like to give the chance to others also.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, this money would be used by the bureaucracy. The Government of India should take note of it. Though it is a State subject, yet, the Congress Party, as a Party, should be ashamed of doing such things.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I would like to have a clarification on this as to whether the Members to the Panchayati Raj institutions were elected before the recent amendment in the Constitution or they were elected after that.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : They were elected before the amendment to the Constitution was brought in. What does it mean?...(Interruptions)...Orissa was the only State which had mostly implemented the recommendations of the constitutional Amendment Bill.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Sir, the Panchayati Raj Bill was unanimously passed in the Orissa Legislative