

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: So far as I am aware, it is the third week of February. That is tentatively fixed.

श्री वसपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार बतला सकती है कि यू० पी० को हर एक माने में बैकवर्ड क्यों बनाया जा रहा है ? हर एक स्टेट की गजट में कांस्टीट्यूंसी प्रादि प्रकाशित हो चुकी हैं, हर एक स्टेट की भ्रलग भ्रलग कांस्टीट्यूंसीय प्रा चुकी है, प्रिन्ट में प्रा चुकी हैं तो उत्तर प्रदेश को इस तरह से क्यों पीछे रखा जा रहा है और वहां के लिए क्यों देर की जा रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह मवाल दूसरा है ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister said that it is the third week of February, 1967.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is tentative.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether steps will be taken by the Government and by the Election Commission to see that elections do take place on a Sunday to enable the working class to cast their vote.

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion, Shri Buta Singh.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I will convey that. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker: When I call another Member, others go on speaking.

Shri Buta Singh: In reply to part (a) and (b) of the Question, the hon. Minister said 'No'. May I know whether the reply is influenced by the forecasts announced by the astrologers in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Buta Singh: They say, there will be no elections. That is why I would like to know.....

Mr. Speaker: Then, he must consult them again.

Shri Shinkre: Only when this Government were fully satisfied that they would be uprooted in Punjab as it exists today, if they did not take any jabi Suba, they took the decision. jabi Suba, they took the decision. Similarly, here are several issues in the country which are awaiting decision for several years. One of them is the border question between Maharashtra and Mysore, and another is the merger of Goa with Maharashtra. In this connection, I want to know from Government whether they are likely to take any decision regarding these several issues, one of them being the merger of Goa with Maharashtra before the next general elections, or whether they are likely to wait until.....

Mr. Speaker: Those questions do not arise out of the main question.

Issue of Tickets by Air India Without 'P' Form

+

- *1727. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shri Daji:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Buta Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India issued about 500 to 1000 tickets in 1965 without Form "P" from Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether any action or show-cause notice has been given to the Air India authorities by the Directorate of Enforcement;

(c) whether some of the officers who were responsible for such racket were promoted and transferred; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No, Sir. The number of cases under inquiry just exceed 300 and during the course of

Inquiry quite a number has been found to be covered by 'P' forms or not requiring 'P' forms.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Corporation have reported that as a result of departmental enquiries and also the communications received from the Directorate of Enforcement, it was considered desirable to move some of the officers and staff who had been previously working in the 'P' Form Section or related units. No transfers have so far been ordered as a punishment.

One officer was transferred to Hong Kong in the usual course before receipt of the Show Cause Notice by him. It was not a case of promotion, but of routine transfer.

They have added that no promotions have been granted to any of these officers and staff. In one case, the promotion of an officer had been announced before his alleged involvement in these irregularities came to their notice. As soon as they came to know about it, the promotion order was cancelled.

(d) As the investigation is in progress, it would not be desirable in public interest to disclose any further details at this stage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am very happy that whereas I said that the number was between 500 and 1000, the hon. Minister has corrected me and said that it is not so much but it is only about 300. I would like to know whether it is a fact that his P-form racket has been going on in Air India since 1957, and if so, what steps have been taken to see that this racket is ended once and for all, and whether that officer transferred to Hong Kong wanted his transfer only in order to avoid departmental proceedings against him.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: These P-form regulations were introduced from 1962 by the Reserve Bank of India, and as such the point referred to by my hon.

friend that this racket existed from 1957 is not well-founded.

Secondly, this officer was on order of transfer, that is, routine order of transfer to Hong Kong, and his transfer has no relation whatsoever with the show-cause notice which came later in this regard.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the number of officers who are under suspension or who were suspended and later on exonerated because of this case, and if no officer has been suspended, the reason for the same?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Show-cause notices have been issued by the Enforcement Directorate against three officers, out of whom one officer is under suspension. There are also departmental inquiries proceeding separately, by the Air India management against four officers, I think.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Are those four officers suspended?

Mr. Speaker: He has said that one of them has been suspended.

Shri Bata Singh: The point is that there is a regular racket working through the travel agents in connivance with the corporation employees. I want to know what special steps Government propose to take to detect and arrest that racket which has been playing with the foreign exchange of this country.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: It has come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate and the Government that there have been certain undesirable practices resorted to by some of the travel agents. The matter is under investigation, and it would be too early for me to say anything very precisely at the moment.

Shri Bata Singh: Any action taken against any travel agents in this connection?

Mr. Speaker: It is under investigation.

Shri Buta Singh: He has not mentioned that any travel agent is involved. I want to know whether he has been able to lay his hands on any travel agent.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: As I mentioned earlier, we have reports that one or two travel agents' organisations are involved in these alleged complaints. We are looking into the matter.

Shri Nambiar: Have Government any proposal to prosecute those officers because of the seriousness of the offence involved?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Most certainly, after the Enforcement Directorate's inquiries are completed, suitable action will have to be taken, and I am sure that such actions as are necessary will be taken.

Shri Nambiar: What about the prosecution?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस पी फार्म के सम्बन्ध में मैंने 22 फरवरी को वित्त मंत्री को एक चिट्ठी लिखी थी। 9 मार्च को उनका जो जवाब आया, उस में यह जुमला था :

"Our Enforcement Directorate has been investigating these allegations with reference to Air India International and have now completed the inquiry for a period of a 5½ months. On the basis of the investigations, requirements of the law are being complied with, and if in the result it is found that any party merits that proceedings should be taken against them, such proceedings will be taken".

जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, यह जवाब 9 मार्च को आया। जांच पूरी हो चुकी है। कानून की दृष्टि से क्या कार्यवाही हो सकती है, केवल इसी पर फ़ैसला करना था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ये दो तीन महीने बीत जाने

के पश्चात् भी अभी तक इसका फ़ैसला नहीं हुआ है।

Shri C. M. Poonacha: As I was mentioning, the Reserve Bank Enforcement Directorate have carefully gone into a number of cases, about 300 in all, of whom about 50 cases have been completed. In these 50—52 cases, it is found that all of them have been covered under the 'P' form regulations; 42 of them had valid 'P' forms and 10 of them were not required to obtain 'P' forms because they had the necessary foreign exchange clearance. Now, in respect of the 250, detailed inquiries are now proceeding.

Mr. Speaker: He says he got a letter to the effect that by 9th March inquiries had been completed and only the legal aspect had to be looked into. He asks why that has not been completed even when two months have gone by.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: On this, actually my Ministry has not got any information.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी इजाजत से इसको टेबल पर रखता हूँ *। इसका जवाब दिलाया जाये।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I seek your guidance. Previously this question was answered by Shri Sanjiva Reddy. In his reply, he said that this is known to the Finance Ministry. Even today the hon. Minister has no information about it.

Mr. Speaker: I will just see. Shri Hem Barua:

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that out of these blessed passengers who were allowed to travel without 'P' forms, two of the sons of the General Manager or some such boss of Air India International also got the privilege of this rather racket? If so, what steps are taken against the persons concerned who allowed their sons to take advantage of this?

*The Speaker not having subsequently accorded the necessary permission, the document was not treated as laid on the Table.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: It is precisely in this regard that the concerned officer is under suspension.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether during the course of investigation of such cases, Government have also found a gang operating in the Reserve Bank who always unduly and inordinately delay the issue of the 'P' form, causing a great revenue loss to Air India? Is this also being investigated, because everyday there is harassment by the Reserve Bank gang when people go with all formalities completed but still are not given the 'P' form?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: These formalities do result in a certain amount of inconvenience to the travelling public. That is a fact.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Certain amount? Any amount.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: As for the 'P' form regulations are concerned, in view of the difficult foreign exchange position, these procedures have to be introduced and enforced, though they are a bit inconvenient to the travelling public.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : अध्यक्ष महोदय,
नाम में संशोधन होना चाहिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह नाम मैंने नहीं
रखा है ।

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Aircraft of Madhya Pradesh Flying Club

SNQ. 38, Shri Linga Reddy: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two-seater training aircraft, L-5 of the Madhya Pradesh Flying Club which took off on the 6th May, 1966 at Indore has not been traced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). The facts are that a two-seater L-5 aircraft of Madhya Pradesh Flying Club which took off at 1120 hours IST on 6th May, 1966 from Bhopal and was reported missing, was traced the same day. The aircraft was on a solo non-stop cross country training flight from Bhopal to Ujjain and back by a trainee pilot. On its return flight, the pilot lost his way and the aircraft forced-landed at 14.30 hours the same day approximately 50 miles South of Bhopal on Narbada river bed. Neither the pilot was injured nor the aircraft was damaged.

Steel Re-Rolling Industry

SNQ 39, Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Re-rolling Industry in the country is facing a crisis owing to acute shortage of billets and consequent under-utilisation of the industry's capacity;

(b) if so, the requirement of and supply to the industry of billets last year; and the estimates about the requirement and expected supply of this raw material for this industry during the current financial year; and

(c) whether Government have decided to allow export of steel billet and if so to what extent and whether Government have received any representations from the industry against this move?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) As compared with demand for billets in 1965-66, the production was insufficient. It cannot, however, be said that the re-rolling Industry is facing a crisis. In fact, the supply position is improving month by month.

(b) The annual requirement of billets, including those of secondary producers, is approximately, 1.25 million tonnes. As against this, the total pro-