

Indemnity Bond for Travel by I.A.F. Planes

*1953. **Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an indemnity bond was taken from members of Lok Sabha absolving the Government of any responsibility for any accident, when they were taken to Ambala for the Air Force Display on the 1st April, 1958;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Ministers are also required to sign similar indemnity bonds?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 80].

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I would like to know if the Government is aware of the fact that the Members of the Parliamentary Committee who went to witness the Air Force Display were really discharging their official duties.

Sardar Majithia: Well, they were invited by the Indian Air Force, and they saw that Air Display.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The question is this, whether the Government . . .

Mr. Speaker: Why should he not also ask separately whether they have been charged or not.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: No, Sir. They say in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House that in certain cases an undertaking bond is taken and in certain other cases an indemnity bond is taken.

Mr. Speaker: What does he want to know whether these hon. Members have been taken free of charge or charged?

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The Members of Parliament on the Defence

Consultative Committee were taken by air to Ambala to witness the Air Force Display, and they were made to sign on indemnity bond that if an accident happened during journey the Government is not responsible. So I am asking, when Members of a Parliamentary Committee are taken for witnessing the Air Force Display, whether it is not a fact that the Members are simply discharging their official duties.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is suggesting, I take it, that no indemnity bond should be taken from them and they must take the risk along with the officers.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: No, Sir, Government must take the risk. Government must compensate the Members' families and dependents if any accident occurs. That is the idea.

Sardar Majithia: Well, Sir, even the officials sign the respective bonds, the only difference between the two being that in the case of the officials they will get whatever pensions they are entitled under the rules. Otherwise, they cannot prefer any claim besides that against the Government or anybody. So there is that discrimination between the two. And in any case, if any Member feels not confident in travelling by the Air Force plane, he certainly may not travel by that.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: This is a matter of opinion. Hon. Members want the Government to take the risk and then pay compensation. Let us not contemplate any such danger to our Members!

Literary Workshops in Punjab

*1954. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for organising literary workshops in Punjab for the training of

authors in the technique of writing for neo-literates and children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) A workshop for Children's Literature is being conducted in Chandigarh.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 81.]

Shri Daljit Singh: May I know what amount has been sanctioned for this proposal?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Sir, the hon. Member will find this information in the statement.

Shri Kumaran: Is it the view of the Government that literary production is a matter just like the production of commercial goods and is it the reason why the unpoetic name "literary workshop" has been adopted?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: It is not a very happy word; I told the House previously also. But since the question was "literary workshop" the answer was given in that form. I have already told the Ministry that we must think of some other word, because this does not fit in our context of things, and I hope we will be able to find a more suitable word for this purpose. But the whole idea is to bring the authors together in one place and to stimulate their ideas for the production of literature for children and neo-literates for which there is a great dearth in our country.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if this expression "literary workshop" has been borrowed from the American language or from Queen's English?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, it is very popular in the United States and this is a term which we have borrowed in our vocabulary. But, as I said, I am not very happy about this word, and I think we will be able to find a more suitable word.

Advance Against Foodgrains

*1955. **Shri E. V. K. Sampath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken recently to relax the provisions restricting advances against foodgrains by scheduled Banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Recently with effect from the 1st April, 1958, advances against foodgrains to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh at each of the offices or branches of a scheduled bank opened on or after 1st January, 1958, and located at centres within a radius of 20 miles of which there is no office of any other scheduled bank, are not being taken into account for computing the permissible credit limits for the bank.

(b) The relaxation has been made in order to facilitate the opening of branches in the rural areas.

Shri E. V. K. Sampath: May I know whether this relaxation is indicative of any improvement in our food position or whether there is no need to check hoarding through curbs against advances by banks?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No, Sir. The relaxation, as I said, is merely to encourage the banking facilities for the rural areas or semi-urban areas under the conditions given in part (a) of the answer. So far as the question of any improvement in the food situation is concerned, the Reserve Bank has gone into the matter recently in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Ministry and they have streamlined and evolved a regulating machinery so far as advances against foodgrains are concerned.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Previously the limit was fifty thousand rupees. Now this limit is relaxed to one lakh. May I know how this is going to facilitate, as the Minister said, the opening of the branches in the rural areas?