

Reservation of Special Compartments for Lepers

*506. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special compartment is reserved for leprosy stricken travellers on Southern Railway;

(b) if so, whether such compartments are reserved on other Railways also for such travellers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the names of other railways where there are separate compartments?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (d) As per existing Rules, persons suffering from leprosy are required to be segregated and carried in separate compartments on payment of usual fares required for such a reservation. These arrangements exist on all Railways, the reservation being done on receipt of application therefor. However, on certain short sections of the Southern and South-Eastern Railways which serve certain leprosy hospitals and over which there is regular movement of persons suffering from leprosy, third class compartments have been set apart on specified trains exclusively for such persons on payment of the ordinary fares.

Shri Assar: May I know if the railways try to educate and instruct lepers by big posters in regional languages to travel only in separate compartments?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Where a separate compartment exists for them, they are urged to go and travel in that compartment.

Shri Assar: Is there any scheme to instruct them to travel in separate compartments?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: A separate compartment is reserved for them, and

when a person shows signs of leprosy, he is directed by the railway staff to that particular compartment.

Shri Muhammed Elias: A number of lepers are found on the station platforms, begging here and there. What arrangements are being made by the Government to remove these lepers from the station platforms?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are removed from the platforms.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether there are any adequate arrangements on the Sholapur-Miraj section where there is great rush of these lepers?

Mr. Speaker: All over India, there are lepers.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. On this particular section between Sangli and Miraj there is a leper hospital at one Wanleswad, and we provide a separate compartment over that question.

Shri Assar: One question more.

Mr. Speaker: Does he mean to say that it will be decided here?

Purchase of Comet IV Planes for Air-India International

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*508. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Damani:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Assar:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a package deal has been offered by the manufacturers of the Jet Comet IV to Air-India International to sell Comet IV planes against the purchase of Constellations and Super-constellations;

(b) if so, the details of this deal;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (d). The Air India International Corporation have reported that the manufacturers of Jet Comet IV have submitted to them certain tentative proposals for the sale of their aircraft and purchase of some of the Corporation's Super Constellations. The proposals are however, at a very preliminary stage and the details have yet to be discussed between the Corporation and the representatives of the manufacturers.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the details of the offer which has been made to us, whether any extra price will be paid for this deal, if accepted?

Shri Mohiuddin: As I have just stated, the proposal is in a very preliminary stage, and it is not possible for me to give any information because we have not got any information.

Shri Muhammed Elias: Am I to understand that these Super Constellations will be replaced by jets?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have stated that there is an offer that if Jet Comet IV is purchased, in return in part payment for this aircraft the manufacturers will take over the Super Constellation. That is the proposal that I have just stated, but of course it is in a very preliminary stage.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are we to understand that Air India International itself had a programme for replacement of these Super Constellations by aircraft with a higher speed, and if so, may I know whether this proposal from the manufacturers of Jet Comet IV has come as a result of that programme or have they themselves made this proposal?

Shri Mohiuddin: The hon Member is aware that Air India International have already purchased three Boeings 707 and they are programmed to be delivered from the first quarter of 1960. There is always a possibility that additional aircraft may be purchased over and above these three, and on account of that there is this offer and it is under consideration.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the amount which will be written off in the replacement of Super Constellation by Comet IV?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is too early to say because no negotiations have yet been even conducted.

Shri Joachim Alva: We are striving our utmost to integrate the civil and military side of our aviation. May I know whether any consultation takes place between the Indian Air Force and our airlines when these purchases take place?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): These matters are generally looked into by the Corporation, and so far as Air India International is concerned, the point is this that when these jet planes come, then possibly every line in the world thinks that there would be no scope for the other planes. Therefore, these are preliminary talks as to what would happen if that situation comes. Beyond that there is nothing.

Shri Karni Singhji: In view of the fact that Boeing 707 is a far better and faster aircraft than Comet IV, why are we going in for Comet IV at all?

Shri Mohiuddin: The Air India International have received this offer. Nothing has been decided. In case they want to buy additional aircraft over and above the three jets already ordered, they are also considering purchase of other similar aircraft.