

specific research. That is the reason why we have appointed more than one committee to look into the different aspects of paddy cultivation.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** Once the hon. Minister gave a reply here that he saw some paddy on which the boys were dancing in China. What about experimenting with that sort of paddy so that our boys may also dance here on paddy?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is no paddy on which anybody can dance. The Chinese claim that they can grow the crops so thick that human beings can stand on them; it has nothing to do with the varieties of paddy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Our experience is that wherever the stack is thick, the grain is small; the stack eats away the nutrition. I do not know whether anybody will be satisfied with stacks so that the children may dance on them, though they may be hungry.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I explain, Sir? Dancing is not done because of the strength of the stack but because of the intensity of the growth of the plants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Even then what I have said is there. Very well. The age of exaggeration is not over.

#### **Indian Airlines Corporation**

\*907. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to transfer seven stations of the Indian Airlines Corporation in Assam to private agencies; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this step?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines Corporation are reviewing the feasibility of entrusting the functioning of some offices to Agents at certain stations including a few in Assam where direct functioning is not economical or administratively convenient.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Do the Government think that there are possibilities of improvement in transferring these stations to private people?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** The Indian Airlines Corporation is not considering the question of improvement. This is only a proposal for decreasing its own expenditure so that the total expenditure incurred by the I.A.C. is economised.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know how this decrease in expenditure is going to be effected—whether by cutting down the staff or by any other means?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** It is proposed to give a contract for the services to be rendered by private agencies at certain places where the work is not heavy and is very light. The question of employment does not come in here, and as far as possible, the present employees will be absorbed in the new agencies.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Is it not a fact that some of the private agencies have made food dropping and thus have supplied food in the NEFA area up to something like 1,490 tons and earned a lot of foreign exchange also, and in view of this fact, may I know whether they will be given some of the unsheduled routes?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** The main question is about the transfer of stations and the serving at the air-ports as far as the carrying of passengers from the air-port to the city or the town is concerned. The question is not concerned with the air-droppings.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether such a transfer is going to take place in Tripura also?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** I am not yet aware of it. The question is under consideration.

**Shri Basumatari:** May I know which are the stations that are going to be transferred to the private agencies?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** I have just stated that this is under consideration.

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने जब यह एयरलाइन्स कारपोरेशन का काम इन इलाके में शुरू किया था तो क्या इस बात की जांच नहीं की थी कि यहाँ पर यह अन्तर्क्रानामिक होगा और यदि जांच की थी तो क्या कारण है कि अब इनको बन्द कर रहे हैं ?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** The fact is, as has been mentioned by my hon. colleague, we are thinking of opening these extra departmental offices where we think it is not possible to open offices because they will increase the expenditure. Therefore, I do not know how the question of the hon. Member arises, because, it has been explained fully that these offices are not yet opened and the question is under consideration.

**Shri Supakar:** May I know if the Government will consider the running of these services at these stations more economically by the private agencies than by the Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a major matter of policy.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** At some station aircraft arrives only once a day, or, sometimes, only three times a week. To keep a person there, at these stations, employed for the whole of the month for a service which exists only for about four to six days in a month is uneconomic.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether it is a fact that in addition to the regular IAC stations in Assam, there are already privately controlled and privately run parallel stations maintained by these unscheduled operators at Kolapani, Joy Hing, Misa, Byraugjuli, Ambari, Sonapur, Sungaon and Panga?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** There are the stations where the private operators are operating. But the question is not concerned with the operators.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** The hon. Deputy Minister said that they are considering

the question of transferring some of the stations in Assam from the IAC to the private agencies. May I know which are the stations?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** As, I have stated, this question is being considered by the IAC and the question has not yet been decided, namely, which stations are to be transferred.

**Shri Basumatari:** May I know which are the private agencies to which the Government is contemplating to transfer these seven stations?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** That question also has not yet been decided. It will have to be considered.

#### Posting of Newspapers Abroad

**908. Raja Mahendra Pratap:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new rules about posting newspapers to foreign countries;

(b) whether permission of the Reserve Bank of India is required to mail the newspapers; and

(c) whether some foreign exchange is involved in sending the newspapers to foreign countries?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** (a) No new rules have been introduced.

(b) For mailing the newspapers as gift no permission from the Reserve Bank of India is required. If a newspaper, however, is sent to a foreign country, on valuable consideration, it is obligatory to fill in the prescribed P.P. Form which has to be countersigned by the Reserve Bank of India or any other Bank authorised to deal in foreign exchange.

(c) That would depend on whether any sale proceed or subscription is received or not from a foreign country for the newspaper sent.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** I say by my experience that my papers—*World Federation, Sansar Sangh* and *Ithahads Duniya*—were not allowed to go to