

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I submit the investigations is being done by the State police. If the hon. Member wants this information particularly, he might renew the question some-time later.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His only objective was that the railway ought to be aware whether their own RPF people are involved in this or not. Because the Railway Minister is answering, his first concern ought to have been whether the railwaymen themselves are involved or not. That is what the hon. Members feel concerned about.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I agree, but there is no question of treating hon. Members with lack of courtesy or contempt. I admit information should have been collected, whether among the 8 persons there are railway employees also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That should be the first concern of the railways.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It should have been collected, but as that information is not available in the information supplied to us, we say we will collect it.

Pooling of Air Services

+
*221. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1054 on the 5th September, 1960 and state:

(a) whether agreement concluded some months ago between Air India International on one side and BOAC and Qantas Empire Airways on the other for pooling of their services is working well;

(b) if so, what is the present position of traffic and income of Air India International and how does it compare with corresponding months of last year;

(c) what are the principal features of the agreement; and

(d) whether similar agreements are envisaged with other air-lines who are operating in Indian territory?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) It is too early to give a precise estimate of the financial results of the operation of the Pool, since the finalisation of Pool Accounts involves elaborate calculations for each partner airline. It is, however, anticipated that the revenue position of Air India International for the current financial year will prove to be satisfactory.

(c) According to the Pool Agreement, Air India International, British Overseas Airways Corporation, Qantas Empire Airways will pool their revenues on parallel routes operated by them and share them on an agreed basis.

(d) Air India International has also somewhat similar Pool arrangements with Aeroplan and Czechoslovak Airlines. There is no proposal at present to enter into such agreements with other foreign airlines operating to India.

Shri Radha Raman: What are the specific advantages which the Government get in agreeing to such a pool with the companies mentioned in the Statement?

Shri Mohiuddin: In the first instance the advantage that we expect is that the co-operation between these three airlines will provide better service to the passengers. Also, this co-operation is expected to result in better financial revenues.

Shri Radha Raman: Apart from the revenue position, which is not yet available, may I know whether there has been any increase in traffic as a

result of the pooling of these three services?

Shri Mohiuddin: I think there has been an increase of traffic, but it is rather difficult to differentiate between increase on account of pooling or other reasons.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether there are proposals pending further consideration for entering into pooling agreement with other foreign Airlines?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have already stated that at the present moment no fresh proposal is under consideration.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if this pool has resulted in the reduction or in the enhancement of air fares?

Shri Mohiuddin: The air fare is not a matter of decision by individual airlines or a combination of individual airlines. According to the general rules of IATA of which AII is a member.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then it has not resulted in any increase.

Shri Mohiuddin: The question does not arise out of this

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Exactly.

Shri Heda: The agreement may be all right so far as the present services are concerned. But what about the expansion? I learn that AII are thinking of expanding their service. May I know whether this agreement will be helpful or will be a hindrance to that?

Shri Mohiuddin: When the expansion takes place, of course, that question will be separately considered.

Shri Tyagi: May I know the effect of this pooling? Will the profits be distributed according to the proportion of various services which are pooling themselves together or will it continue to depend on the number of passengers carried by them?

Shri Mohiuddin: There are certain principles agreed to between the air-

lines and it is on the basis of those principles, which include the provision of capacity by each airline, that the distribution of the revenues will take place.

Shri Tyagi: I want to have a clear idea as to on what basis the pooling has been effected and how the profits will be distributed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there a written agreement about the pooling?

Shri Mohiuddin: Yes; there is, but it is an agreement between three commercial corporations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A copy of it may be placed on the Table.

Shri Mohiuddin: I think it is not the usual practice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then this information required by the hon. Member may be conveyed to him.

Shri Mohiuddin: I have already stated there are certain principles. For example, the principle laid down is that the three airlines will sit down together and come to an agreement regarding the capacity to be provided by each airline for particular routes. When that agreement has been made, the capacity that is provided is the basis for the distribution of the revenues. That is the broad principle on which we are working.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, that agreement has not yet been made?

Shri Mohiuddin: The agreement has been signed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then something must have been settled if the agreement has been signed.

Shri Tyagi: In allotting the proportions to various lines was the fact of their full capacity in the past taken into consideration? Did they take into account the fact that while our planes are mostly going full the planes of other lines are not so full?

Shri Mohiuddin: Yes, sir. The previous traffic carried, the capacity

provided, all those factors have been taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there would be any objection in placing before the House the relevant portions of the agreement about the principles that have been settled for distributing the incomes that have been derived. Is there any objection to that also? The whole agreement might not be placed here but the relevant portions that only concern about the distribution of incomes can be placed here.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): I would like to point out for your consideration that this agreement was entered into by three autonomous corporations. Ours, no doubt, is under Government control but still we will have to consult the other partners before that is placed on the table of the House because the information given here will go all round the world and the two other partners may not like anybody to know what is the amount of pool that has been decided upon.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If this Parliament has got control over its own corporation, then certainly it is entitled to know how that agreement affects the income of our own company.

Shri Tyagi: No project in the public sector is autonomous of this Parliament. They are all subordinate to Parliament.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It need not be discussed now. I will look into it and I will discuss it with the Minister to find out what can be done. But I am sure this information must be supplied to the hon. Member.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: It is mentioned in the statement that Air India International has somewhat similar pool arrangements with Aero-flot and Czechoslovak Airlines. On the basis of the agreements, may I know what exactly is the percentage for Aero-flot and Czechoslovak Airlines and BOAC and Qantas?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have not got the figures of total revenues and total distribution. Under the agreement, broadly speaking, the total revenues of particular services will be shared according to the number of services run by each line.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The statement says:

"It is, however, anticipated that the revenue position of Air India International for the current financial year will prove to be satisfactory."

May I know whether that position would be better than the revenue position before the agreement was entered into?

Shri Mohiuddin: That is exactly what is meant by that statement.

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know whether the proposal was initiated by Air India International or by the BOAC?

Shri Mohiuddin: I think it was a mutual proposal.

Shri Kalika Singh: But one side must have initiated it. Was it the BOAC or the Air India International?

Shri Mohiuddin: I may inform the House that these proposals are initiated by negotiations at dinner parties and tea parties.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: My question, which was specific, has not been answered. If Aeroflot and Czechoslovak Airlines divide on the basis of 50 : 50, what is the percentage of division between AIL, BOAC and Qantas? Is it 40, 30 or 20 per cent?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the question is repeated, then the answer will also be repeated.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: But he did not reply to my question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then he will not reply even now.

A representation was made to the hon. Speaker that S.Q. Nos. 241 and 244 be taken together during the last five minutes and the Speaker has given his decision on that. Therefore, I am passing on to S.Q. Nos. 241 and 244.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will appreciate that I cannot pass over the orders of the Speaker. He might do it himself, but I cannot do it. Now, both those questions can be answered together.

General Strike on Railways

*241. { ⁺ Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have condoned the break in service of those railway employees who participated in strike;

(b) if so, whether this has been done in all cases; and

(c) the total number of employees whose break has been condoned?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About 2·3 lakhs.

General Strike on Railways.

*244. { ⁺ Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees on the Railways under suspension for participating in the General Strike during July, 1960 as on 31st October, 1960; and

(b) the number of employees whose services were terminated for the same reason?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). No one was suspended or removed from service for mere participation in the strike. The number of employees under suspension on 31-10-1960 in connection with the strike was 1,525 and services of 348 employees stood terminated on that date.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is a fact that there are nearly 30 employees of the Integral Coach Factory still on suspension, some of them have not been served with charge-sheets and those who have been served with charge-sheets are served only for participation in the strike?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I would require notice about the exact number.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that orders have been issued to condone the break in service. May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the General Managers of many railways have not implemented these orders with the result that the services of many employees have a break? I want to know whether instructions have been issued to the General Managers to regularise their services.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The hon. Member should have asked for the date on which this order was issued before blaming the General Managers for non-implementation of these orders. These orders have been issued only a few days ago and immediate effect will be given to them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are some railway employees who have retired from service on reaching their age of superannuation before these condonation orders were issued. May I know whether their cases will be reviewed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, if they represent their cases to the proper authorities due consideration will be given.