

Shri Hathi: The whole staff does not continue, but some do continue, because the other work has yet to be carried on.

Dr. Vijaya Ananda: What is the actual financial gain to India by this treaty?

Shri Hathi: Financial gain? The settlement of the whole issue.

Palam Airport Restaurant

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*494. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 { Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1078 on the 21st December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether a number of International Airline Companies have stopped patronising the Palam Airport Restaurant because of mismanagement and bad quality of catering;

(b) if so, how much loss of revenue Government have suffered on this account; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the catering?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). There have been complaints including one from International Air Transport Association Airlines Representatives Board in New Delhi regarding the poor quality of food and service rendered by the present catering contractor at Palam. In view of this, it has been decided to call for fresh tenders for the award of the catering contract as soon as possible. The existing caterer may, however, have to be given a short extension of the present contract in view of certain remodelling works to be undertaken at the airport shortly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that this particular restaurant was having a good kitchen, but that kitchen was substituted by converting certain urinals into wash

basins and other things; and whether it is a fact that the hygienic officer of the B.O.A.C. when he visited it gave a remark that the kitchen is very poorly equipped at present and could not in his opinion be expected at present to undertake aircraft catering; and, if so, what steps Government are taking to provide a good kitchen to this particular restaurant?

Shri Mohiuddin: Arrangements are being made to provide a new kitchen with modern equipment for cooking and other requirements. That is the purpose of extending the present contract, so that when this remodelling of the kitchen has been done other contractors may see what kitchen they can use and can tender for it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if there is a proposal with the Government to run it departmentally, instead of giving it on contract—because it is a very important centre?

Shri Mohiuddin: No, Sir.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: 'Why not' is another question.

Shri Mohiuddin: It is not deemed desirable at this stage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether similar complaints have been launched against the airport restaurants at Calcutta (Dum Dum) and a thirty-six page report has been given by one of the senior officers of Civil Aviation; and, if so, what steps have been taken against that particular contractor?

Shri Mohiuddin: I will make enquiries into it, if there are any complaints.

Mr. Speaker: This relates to Palam.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I know, Sir. But I say that the renewal of contract is for Bombay, Calcutta and Palam. Palam fortunately is in Delhi, and we know about it. But the contract has been renewed in Calcutta in June, with all these complaints.

Mr. Speaker: That is a separate question.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what period of extension has been granted to the present contractor?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is proposed to give an extension up to six months.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The hon. Minister has said just now that under the circumstances the present lessee will have to be given an extension. May I know for what period it will be and also, if I may add in the same question, what were the real complaints?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): He has already said 'six months' in the first place; and, in the second place, he said that there was a complaint from an international air service that the food was not up to the mark. But now some others have said that the quality of the food is better. But in spite of it Government have decided, as it will take about six months to have this kitchen properly done up, that this gentleman's contract should be extended by six months and then we will call for tenders when the kitchen is ready. And when tenders are called for the present contractor will also be allowed to tender for the same.

Shri Jaipal Singh: What is the general policy with regard to the tenure of the tender? Is it annual or is for three years as is the case in Calcutta where it has been renewed for three years?

Shri Mohiuddin: Usually the period of contract is three years; and the general policy has been that if the services have been satisfactory and if there are no complaints, the period is extended by another three years. Otherwise fresh tender is called.

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

कब कि भारत सरकार की नीति तो नेशनलाइजेशन के पक्ष में है, जैसा कि रेलवेज में किया जा रहा है, तो क्या कम्यूनिकेशन्ज मिनिस्ट्री में कोई दूसरी नीति का प्रवलम्बन किया जा रहा है कि राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं किया जा रहा है ?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am afraid the hon. Member has got the wrong end of the stick, because nationalisation is good and we are all for it, but catering is not a thing where nationalisation is called for.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: But, in the railways, catering has been taken up departmentally. When the railways are undertaking departmental catering, under the nationalisation scheme, may I know why the Ministry of Transport and Communications is following a different policy?....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order Next question.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Why should there be a difference in policy between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Transport and Communications? The Government of India's policy is one; there are no two different policies. I want to know why there is a difference?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shall I advise the Reporter not to take down anything which the hon. Member has said? The hon. Member does not hear me. The words are flowing from him torrentially. What can I do? This is a matter of policy which I am not going to allow to be raised during the Question Hour. The hon. Member may read rule 41 of our Rules of Procedure, which says that matters of big policy—ought not to be taken up during the Question Hour. Hon. Members, when they are putting their questions, must also have an ear for me. Now, next question.