

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मंत्री महोदय को ज्ञात है कि दो तीन वर्ष पहले मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट ने सेट्रल रोड फंड से या सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट से तीन करोड़ कर्ज लिया था जिसमें से इन दोनों नदियों पर पुल बनाने का निर्णय किया गया था। तीन वर्ष से अब तक क्या कुछ भी निर्णय नहीं हुआ है?

श्री राज बहादुर : किस कर्ज के बारे में कहा गया है, यह मुझे पता नहीं है। लेकिन यह जो दो पुलों को बनाने का प्रश्न में हवाला है उसके बारे में मैं कह सकता हूँ कि जो प्रस्ताव आया उसके अनुसार हम लोगों ने उसका उत्तर दे दिया था और ५० प्रतिशत उसमें सहायता देने का वचन दिया है।

सरदार भ० सि० सहगल : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश की गवर्नमेंट के पास, जिसका हाल ही में पुनर्गठन हुआ है, यदि ५० प्रतिशत खर्च करने के लिए भी रूपाय न हो तो क्या भारत सरकार उसको मदद देने के लिए तैयार है?

श्री राज बहादुर : अभी राज्य सरकार की ओर से कोई उत्तर नहीं आया है। जैसा कि और राज्यों के साथ इस बारे में काम किया जाता है वैसा ही इस राज्य के साथ भी किया जाएगा।

Air India International

*1659. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) which are the stations in Europe of the Air India International where the Chief Representative is not an Indian national;

(b) whether there are any special advantages in appointing non-Indians;

(c) if so, what are they; and

(d) whether any attempts have been made to appoint Indians in all key managerial positions of the Air India International Corporation both in India and abroad?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The District Managers at Rome, Paris and Dusseldorf and the Regional Traffic Manager for Europe with Headquarters at Geneva are Non-Indians.

(b) and (c). Non-Indians have been appointed only where suitable Indian Nationals with requisite qualifications and experience were not available.

(d) All the key managerial posts in India are held by Indians. The policy of the Corporation is to replace the foreign nationals by Indians as far as practicable taking into consideration the fact, that some foreign nationals who are in charge of European Stations were appointed by the predecessor company before nationalisation and have been in service for a long time

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the system followed by other foreign air service companies so far as appointments to these key posts are concerned? Do they appoint nationals of their own country or foreigners?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This is a very general question about foreign companies. But the presumption is that everywhere people employ their own nationals as far as possible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in the complaints book it has been recorded that there is apprehension of confidential circulars leaking out while they pass through these key officers?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It has not come to my notice. But I shall certainly draw the attention of the Air India International to the point made by the hon. Member.

Shri Ranga: Can we take it that we are not appointing any foreign nationals now?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Since nationalisation only one foreign national has been appointed, and he was appointed, I think, in 1954.

Shri Banga: For what tenure?

Shri Humayun Kabir: These are not on tenure. When you take foreign nationals, if you dismiss them, you create a certain amount of ill-will. With regard to these people who have been in service, from the point of view of public relations and attracting local traffic it has proved of advantage that these men have been there.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is it not a fact that by international convention any international operator has to employ a certain number of the nationals of the country through which it traverses?

Shri Humayun Kabir: So far as the junior posts are concerned, the convention is that nationals of the country where the station is, are appointed.

Shri Jaipal Singh: How many non-Indian nationals are in the employ of Air India International at the present moment?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I can say about senior officers. If my hon. friend wants to know all the detailed figures, they have to be collected. There are eighteen stations, and out of them non-Indian nationals are operating only at five stations.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In the course of the debate on the Demands relating to this Ministry we were given the information that the Air India International has been opening out contact offices in various parts of the world. In these offices, are there mostly Indians or non-Indian nationals?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I have stated, out of the eighteen stations which are outside the country, only in five are the heads non-Indian; all the other thirteen are Indian. And so far as the junior posts are concerned, like Secretaries and Assistants, these have to be local nationals for obvious reasons.

Shri Biren Roy: Are Government aware that in most of these foreign stations the ordinary Indian passengers are treated with very scant courtesy?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have not heard of that; in fact I have heard high praise.

Mr. Speaker: By Air India International?

Shri Biren Roy: I am speaking particularly of the Air India International.

Shri Humayun Kabir: Till now we have received only praise about the courtesy and service of the Air India International.

Shri Biren Roy: I am not speaking of the service in the aircraft. I am speaking of it, at the stations.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have not received any complaints up till now. This is the first time I am hearing it, and I shall draw the attention of the Chairman to this complaint.

Shri Biren Roy: I will place facts before him.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I heard the hon. Minister say that certain foreign nationals were there because suitable, qualified Indian personnel were not available. If key managerial posts can be manned by Indians in this country, what are the particular technical requisites for which qualified Indians are not available abroad?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The answer is very simple. It is a question of linguistic efficiency. In this country most of the transactions are through English, whereas in Czechoslovakia or Switzerland or other foreign countries, unless the Indian national has sufficient facility in the language of that country he cannot operate efficiently.

Southern Rice Zone

*1660. **Shri N. R. Munsamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the fixation of price of rice per maund F.O.R. is uniform in all States comprising Southern Rice Zone and whether it is being observed?