

Effect of Increase in Passenger fare on Air India traffic

*727. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUN WALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hike in passenger fare will affect Air-India traffic;

(b) what has been the reaction of foreign travel agents who help in procuring traffic for Air India, to the fare rise proposed in the budget for 1971-72; and

(c) whether any adverse effect on traffic has been noticed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) to (c). Presumably, the Honourable Member is referring to the increase of fares in Indian Airlines which takes effect from 1st July 1971. Since there is going to be no increase in through international fares on approximately 70 sectors (which cover almost all the points of tourist interest) paid for in foreign currency, no fall in the traffic carried by Air India is anticipated. Nor has any adverse comment been received from foreign travel agents.

SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : May I know whether it is a fact that according to a study reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated 5th June, 1971, the proposed surcharge on tickets bought in India and in Indian rupees may result in a loss of revenue of Rs. 8.5 crores to Air India during the current financial year, and if so, what is Government's reaction to this ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : May I know whether the hon. Member is referring to the rise in the air fare made by Indian Air lines or

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Air India.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : There is no hike in passenger fares by Air India. There is a hike in passenger fares by Indian Airlines.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is about Air India.

SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : This is in respect of the surcharge which

has been made on the tickets for foreign travel, and according to the report of the *Hindustan Times* there is going to be a loss of about Rs. 8.5 crores in revenue. I am referring to that.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : If the hon. Member is referring to the 20 per cent levy proposed, then it is still in the stage of a proposal. Therefore, it is very difficult to make any comment at this stage.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : Although it is true that it is in the stage of proposal, assuming it goes through what will be the effect ?

MR. SPEAKER : Ifs and Buts are not allowed in the supplementaries.

Shortage of crew with Indian Air trained Lines

*728. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of trained crew with the Indian Airlines for putting into service its entire fleet of the newly acquired Boeing 737; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). When the Boeing 737 was introduced there was a shortage of trained pilots. The position has since improved and the full complement is expected to be available shortly.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : I want to know the number of trained pilots actually required for the introduction of Boeing 737. How was the department ready to introduce Boeing 737 without having sufficient number of trained pilots ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : The minimum number of trained pilots required for each aircraft is ten and approximately 70-75 pilots are required for the whole fleet of Boeings. We have with us 62 trained pilots