

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, companies of our country are making production according to our requirement. As per my knowledge no global tender has been floated for optical fibre so far.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that more products are purchased from the private sector companies than the public sector companies. In this connection, I want to know as to whether the Government will give guarantee to ensure that the products are purchased from the public sector companies and not from the private sector companies and not from the public sector companies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Haradh Roy.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : He is not answering my question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Answer was given even without answering.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Cables Ltd. a Government of India undertaking is the biggest company in our region. The Department of Telecom and Telecom corporation do not take care of it. This is a public sector company. The optical fibre which was transferred is manufactured in Hindustan Cables, Hyderabad and Saonapur and also in Noni. Even being a public sector undertaking it could not get any order. Even though its tender was rated lowest order was not given to it and it was told that it will have to supply at the rate of the year 1993.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : I am just going to ask the question. I want to know as to why this company do not get orders. Secondly, why the outstanding amount is not being paid?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : What can I say in this regard. I can only say that rules in regard to purchase will be followed strictly. Relaxation in the rules in respect of PSUs shall also be complied with.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What will be the amount to be received by Hindustan Cables Ltd? Please release the amount.

[English]

Bird Hit Incidents

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*123. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of bird hit on the planes around different domestic and international airports during 1994, 1995 and in 1996 as on date;

(b) the net loss sustained by Indian Airlines and Air India on account of bird hit during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent frequent bird strikes and to provide safety to the air journeys?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The number of incidents of birds hit to Indian Civil registered aircraft reported in India in 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto 30th June, 1996) are as follows:

1994	146
1995	145
1996	55

(b) The net loss sustained by Indian Airlines and Air India on account of bird hit during the period is as follows :

Year	Loss (Rupees in Lakhs)	
	Indian Airlines	Air India
1994	14.45	1140.68
1995	30.85	21.83
1996	11.00	883.61
Total :	56.30	2046.12

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent bird strikes and to provide safe air journeys :

1. Proper collection and disposal of garbage using polythene bags.
2. Covering of garbage dumps.
3. Installation of incinerators.
4. Prevention of illegal deskinning of animals in the open.
5. Setting up of carcass utilisation centre.
6. Establishment of modern abattoirs.
7. Removal of slums, unauthorised priggeries and diary farms around the airports.
8. Prevention of water logging inside the airports.
9. Pigeon proofing of hangars.
10. Scaring and shooting of birds within the airfield.
11. Information to pilots by Air Traffic Controllers about presence of birds.
12. Amendment of aircraft approach and departure procedures.

13. Amendment of Aircraft Act to make violation of Aircraft Rules regarding disposal of garbage a cognizable offence.
14. Frequent joint inspection by concerned authorities of areas within and around airports.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister will agree that the incidents of birds hitting with the aircrafts is the highest in the world. The statement made by you relates to Indian Airlines and Air India. How far it is true, you know well but incidents of birds hitting are not ordinary incidents. In our country there is shortage of aircrafts as these are costly and there is always likelihood of air crash resulting loss of life and property. Such type of question has been raised twice or thrice in this House earlier also but the reply is the same all the time and even after that such incidents have not been minimised. The question of Air force is not included in this but when we talk of aircrafts then it means that aircraft of the Air force are also included in this. Today the situation is that the Airforce stations at Puna, Ambala, Adampur, Tejpur, Bareilly, Hindon, Jodhpur, Gwalior, Sirsa and Hyderabad are the most bird hit affected stations.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister that an inter-ministerial Committee of the ministries of Agriculture, Civil Aviation, Defence and Environment and Forests was constituted and that Committee had given some recommendations. One of the recommendations was that we bring down the number of these incidents by spending Rs.40-50 crore at a time. I would like to know as to whether the present Government propose to consider the recommendations of this inter-ministerial committee and by what time you are going to implement them. I would also like to know whether there are any other recommendations in addition to these recommendations?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There are some recommendations of the Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary with the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Vedanti, please go back to your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The action plan is before the Government. We will look into it.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that the Government is not considering this issue seriously because the hon. Minister has no experience. Therefore, I hope that he will think over it in view of the policies of this new Government in a new atmosphere.

Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the views

expressed by the Mumbai Natural History Society on the problem of bird hit. The society has mentioned two major points and one of them has been covered in the speech of the hon. Minister. The second point is regarding demolition and removal of Jhuggi-jhonpri cluster around the major Airports. It is a policy matter. It will be better if some proper arrangement is made for shifting the jhuggi jhonpri cluster in order to protect the aircrafts from the incidents of birds hit. As a result of this social justice will be strengthened and incidents of bird hit would be checked. What is the opinion of the Government on it...*(Interruptions)*

I have to ask some more supplementary questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 'B' part of my second supplementary question is that state Governments are also involved in the implementation of your suggestions. In this connection, I would like to say that the state Governments should not be burdened due to lack of direct co-ordination between the Centre and the State Governments and on account of paucity of funds. Therefore, I would like to know as to whether the Central Government propose to allocate funds to avoid the situation.

The 'C' part of my supplementary question originates from your reply itself. In the reply it has been said :

[English]

"Amendment of Aircraft Act to make violation of Aircraft Rules regarding disposal of garbage is a cognizable offence."

[Translation]

Several slaughter houses have come up around the Airports where animal skin is flayed. As a matter of fact would you consider it also as a cognizable offence in view of your proposal for 25 km radius or you will be limited to garbage only.

These are my three questions. I hope that the hon'ble Minister has got it and will reply to it.

SHRI C.M. IRBAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly pointed out that the incidents of birds hit are more there where slums are in abundance. In context of your first question regarding the study on this issue, I would like to say that 50 personnels from Air Force were sent to shoot the birds near airports and this work was started but in the mean time someone filed a litigation in the court that birds cannot be shot in this way and thus that work was stopped.

Now the problem is that there are two category of persons. One category of 'Prani Daya Sangh' and other category is of bird hitting. I am in a dilemma on this. Therefore, we are trying to plant small plants around the airports which would not attract the birds to climb down. The work has been taken up first in Delhi. Secondly, red coloured lights on the air runway attract

insects early in the morning resulting the birds climb down to eat them up. Therefore, we have started the cleaning of these lights in the morning so that birds may not get attract.

In context of slums, I would like to say that when I took the charge of this Ministry, Mahajanji came here and we discussed the issue to Mumbai slums and tried our best to get some land for it so that the problem could be solved by making a contribution of 50-50 percent from both the sides but it could not be done. I asked the Secretary to discuss the problem with the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Government to find out some solution. This land cost crores of rupees and National Airport Authority does not have so much funds and there is no provision in budget for this. We have taken up this task with the help of our savings. In context of getting an alternative place and social justice, I would like to say that we do not intend to displace any poor person. We are trying to solve this problem through negotiation with the State Governments and with the assistance of the elected MPs.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, newspapers campaign that you have good relations with the Prime Minister and in view of that relation you can get funds sanctioned for it.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is nothing like that. My name is not there in the news items published in newspapers on it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Thank you, Sir. My question would be like this. I pose the problem. Is he aware of the problems? This is number one. If so, what kind of intervention will he make?

I know Calcutta Airport very intimately and I live very nearby. Actually, that is a part of my constituency. Prevention of waterlogging, scaring and shooting of birds within the airfield is a job that is given to contract labour. I do not know whether he is aware of that.

Secondly, a contract labourer has to walk two kilometres of the runway to get at one end, in order to scare away the birds and to do these things. That labourer has no place to relieve himself or to take his food; and there is no arrangement to take him from one end to the other. He has to walk the distance of two kilometers in order to take his food or to do anything else. He spoils the area. Would the hon. Minister intervene and see that his condition is improved so that we achieve the desired results? It is true of the problem of waterlogging also. I am the President of the Contract Labourers' Union and so, I know the problem. That is one part of the problem.

The other part of the problem is this. The hon. Minister has suggested several things in his reply, namely, joint inspection by concerned authorities of the areas in and around the airport. I stay in one of the

Municipalities around the airport. If the hon. Minister knows about Calcutta, on the VIP Road in Calcutta, open animal deskinning takes place and stinking smell comes out. Is the hon. Minister aware of the problem? The Municipalities are weak-enough; and they are not provided with the facilities which permit them to remove these things. It is stinking. I stay by the side of that stinking VIP Road. That attracts the birds.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have asked my question -- whether he is aware of the kind of problems and if he is aware, then what is he going to do about helping the municipalities and helping the contract labour, and how?

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I was not aware of these facts. Now I will issue instructions to my officials. They have said that you are the President of Contract labourers. I congratulate you and request you to keep a watch on them and try to provide the required facilities to them.

Secondly, a committee has been set up at every airport under the Chairmanship of District Collector.

[English]

The District Collector is the Chairman.

[Translation]

They will keep on convening periodical meetings co-opting Indian Airlines, Air India, Municipality and social organisations.

[English]

They will advise as to what measures should be taken to prevent this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is all right that you will do that. But will you include the MPs in that?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes, definitely. I am happy. Today itself I will issue orders and wherever there are MPs, they would be included in that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The hon. Minister has said in his reply something about the slums near the aerodromes. In my constituency, there are two big aerodromes - Santa Cruz as well as Sahar.

Both the aerodromes have been totally surrounded by slum. For the last many years, so many persons have tried to give them alternative accommodations and remove or demolish the entire hutments from that area but unfortunately, the number of hutments is going up. The State of Maharashtra has introduced one very nice scheme of providing free houses to all the slum-dwellers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is sad because it is being implemented.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Let Shri Kalmadi tell us to where all the schemes are which he had declared when he was the Railway Minister.

Is the hon. Minister prepared to consider giving alternative accommodation of land to all the slum-dwellers? In that case, we will form a society and will see that housing accommodation is given to the people because the entire land belongs to the Central Government and airport authorities. So, if they are willing to do that, from our side, we will see that we get entire cooperation from the hutment-dwellers; we will form a society and construct the houses. This is my first point. My second question is...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can ask only one supplementary. You may say 'a' or 'b' part of your supplementary.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : This is for my information and information of the House also. Instructions are being given to the concerned authorities. This being the position and in view of the colossal losses that have been taking place every year, I want to know whether there is some vigilance to see that all the instructions given to the concerned authorities are being implemented properly or not, if so, then, why are these accidents taking place?

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : As you have said that if they are ready to shift, can you make arrangements for alternative land for it.

[English]

I have spoken to the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; he is meeting the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra and I have given him fullest instructions about two things. Firstly, I have to save some land for the airport also and secondly, the poorest of the poor also should not be deprived of their rights. I will assure you that after the return of my Secretary from Mumbai, I will call a meeting of all the Members of Parliament connected with that area either in Delhi or in Mumbai. I will assure you that we are not going to vacate them forcefully. I want to give this assurance to you... (Interruptions)... I expect the fullest cooperation from your side. To meet this cleaning, we have to have a clear atmosphere and secondly, you have asked me regarding periodical inspection but unfortunately, we cannot control the growth of birds because India is such a vast country. As you have agreed, these airports have become breeding grounds for birds and other things. Unless and until we do not clean the surrounding area, I tell you that it is impossible for us to control this.

The trend earlier was that in 1986, there were 189 accidents which took place; it has come down gradually. In 1995, it was 143 and in 1996 it has come down to 55.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It was for six months... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is 110. I feel that it could be curtailed further.

[English]

We are talking all precautionary measures. Loss is increasing but that loss is covered from insurance. I am covering 75 per cent of the losses through insurance.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : It is a good thing that the incidents of accidents due to bird hits are coming down.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps are being taken to remove the slaughter houses around the airports. The slaughter houses are not supposed to be there around the airports within a radius of 10 km. Their presence around the airports is the main reason for the birds to get attracted to that area.

In the modern airports in the world it is not done through contract labour but through the rangers who move about with guns of plastic plates which scare away the birds. That is the modern method of scaring away the birds when the flocks come in. I would like to know whether there is any such scheme which the Government intends to bring in the major airports.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : In respect of the matter of slaughter houses, we have been writing to State Governments.

[English]

They should take immediate action to remove them even without our permission. If such things are existing there, it is the main concern of the State Governments to take action. Wherever such type of slaughter houses are there, we, in the Ministry would locate them and would give necessary instructions to the Officers of the Department.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : A law was enacted in the past that no habitation would be allowed in the radius of 5 km. of the airports.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is a law but State Government is responsible for its implementation. We are writing to them for implementation of this law. Is the State Government fails to do so, we will put pressure through our Department for implementation of this law... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the statement made by hon. Minister that he is principally agree to provide alternative houses for 5 lakh slum dwellers living around the Mumbai Airport.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I have not said that I am sanctioning any scheme for providing alternative houses. Tomorrow you will quote it from the proceedings of the House. What I have said is that, we will abide by the outcome of the discussion and agreement reached in the meeting to be held between the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Government and our Secretary in connection of providing alternative land for it. The second proposal received from the State Government is that 50 per cent of the land should be given to them and the remaining 50 percent to us. We are ready to do that.

[English]

I agree for both.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sometime the bureaucrats leave the problem as it is. In view of it I would like to make a submission that after receiving the report of the Secretary, whether the Government propose to set up any sub-group under your Chairmanship to take a decision in respect of the large number of slums in Mumbai?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : As so far the bureaucrats of my department are concerned, I would like to say that they are working with full devotion and I believe that they will find out a way. Horse obeys the instructions of his master and move towards right path if the master is right. I have full faith on my officers and I have given them rights to meet the Chief Secretary and local MPs. Even if the problem is not solved...

[English]

Definitely, I will intervene. I will call all of you and we will see that it is settled as early as possible.

[Translation]

Reservation to Minorities

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*124. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide separate reservation to minorities in Government jobs and educational institutions in view of their backwardness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any constitutional hurdle in providing reservation for religious minorities on the basis of their backwardness; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to conduct any survey for social and economic backwardness of various minority communities to extend reservation benefit to them under Articles 15 and 16 ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : (a) to (d). There is no proposal under Government's consideration for giving separate reservation to religious minorities in Public Employment and Educational Institutions. However, those sections of minority communities which are socially and educationally backward have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the purpose of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India. Similar reservations exist in many States.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : I thank the hon'ble Minister for the Statement made by him. Today's Prime Minister and the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, Hon'ble Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, while speaking as the Chief guest of the Jamia Milia Islamia University, had told in November, 1995 that he is in favour of reservation for the Muslim community and religious minorities in job and education. When he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka, he had given four percent reservation to this community. It is against the secularism to give reservation on the basis of religion in a secular country and this will create the feeling of segregation among the people. I agree with your reply. Instead of this, it would be good, if it is said that provision of reservation for students of poor classes of all the communities would be made. Would you like to do so?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Reservation is already available there for the people of economically weaker sections of the society like the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Whether the provision will also be made for the people other than SCs, STs and other backward classes?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : At present there is no such a scheme under consideration of the Government to give reservation for the minorities.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : The Government and especially the ruling Janata Dal have mentioned in their statements and manifesto as well that they will give reservation to dalit Christians and for the purpose they are going to prepare a Bill. I want to tell that there is not caste system among the dalit Christians. It will be clear from the records of the last 50 years that the percentage of the Christians population in the year 1951 was 2.26 as against the total population and in the year 1991-92 it increased to 2.30 percentage. There has been a marginal increase in the percentage. It means that the number of the Christians have not been increased too much in these 50 years. Inspite of that