

**Agreement between management and workers of Calcutta Tramways Company**

4360. SHRI BHAGABAN DAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement had been arrived at between the management and workers of the Calcutta Tramways Company in the matter of D.A. some years back, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any steps had been taken by Government to implement the agreement in toto; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) :

(a) Yes. A three-year agreement was signed between the management and workers of the Calcutta Tramways Company with regard to dearness allowance of the employee of the Company on 4-4-1964. Under this agreement, the dearness allowance of the employees was increased by certain quanta, so as to naturalise the working class living index upto 455 points and middle class living index upto 505 points. It was also agreed that, during the period the agreement remaining operative, the dearness allowance should remain automatically linked with the cost of living index and that dearness allowance for the following year should be based on the average increase in cost of living index during the previous year at Rs. 1.25 for every 5 points subject to the condition that, if the cost of living index in any year rose or fell by 40 points or more, the working of the relevant clause of the agreement would be subject to further review.

(b) All the provisions of the agreement, except clauses 11 and 12 relating to removal of anomalies in the grades and scales of staff and further increase in dearness allowance of the employees in the event of an increase in traffic receipts, were implemented by the then management of the Company. The agreement ceased to be operative in July, 1967. Even so, the Government of West Bengal, which took

over the management of the Company in that month, allowed two *ad hoc* increases of dearness allowance for the workers at Rs. 10/- each in 1969 and a further increase of Rs. 10/- in 1970. The Calcutta Tramways Company's management also drew up schemes for enhancement of emoluments of the workers and improvement of the prospects of promotion to the employees (the basic objects underlying clauses 11 and 12 of the agreement) as a part of a package deal, but the offer was not accepted by the workers.

**Nationalisation of Calcutta Tramways Company**

4361. SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to nationalise the Calcutta Tramways Company after the term of the on-trial period is over in 1971; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal are considering the question of purchasing the Calcutta Tramways Company. They have constituted a Negotiations Committee for the purpose.

**Enquiry against concealment of income by Volga Restaurant**

4362. SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against the owner of Volga Restaurant, New Delhi for the concealment of huge income;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against him ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) Complaint of tax evasion has been received against M/s. Volga Restaurant and its partner Shri Madan Lal Lamba.

(b) and (c). The allegations are being investigated. Assessments in respect of 5 years have been reopened. In respect of 2 years, assessments have already been completed and large additions made to the disclosed income. The additions made are the subject matter of appeals.

**Contract for supply of Food to Air-India and Indian Airlines**

4363. **SHRI K ANIRUDHAN :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the contracts for supply of food to Air India and Indian Airlines have been given to Volga Restaurant, New Delhi although certain enquiry regarding the concealment of huge income was going on against the owner of the said Restaurant ?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :** Air India had a contract with Messrs Volga Restaurant of New Delhi for uplift of food for their flight transitting through New Delhi. This contract was terminated on the 20th May, 1970 when Air India's own flight kitchen at Palam started functioning.

Indian Airlines do not have any contract with Messrs Volga Restaurant. All major meals are uplifted from Air India's flight kitchen and other refreshments are provided by Indian Airlines' own catering establishment at the airport. However, in cases of delays and disruption to Indian Airlines' flights, passengers are served meals in Volga's airport restaurant.

**Closing down of the branches of Indian Overseas Bank in Malaysia, Ceylon and Thailand**

4364. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :** Will the Minister of

FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that branches of Indian Overseas Bank in Malaysia, Ceylon and Thailand are to be shortly closed down as foreign nationalised banks are not permitted to function in those countries;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that with the loss of many of its foreign branches Indian Overseas Bank will be reduced to the smallest bank among the 14 nationalised banks;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to merge Indian Overseas Bank with State Bank of Travancore or make it a new subsidiary of State Bank of India; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B CHAVAN) :** (a) Foreign nationalised banks are not prohibited from functioning in Ceylon and Thailand and the question of closing down the branches of Indian nationalised banks in these countries does not, therefore, arise. The Malaysia Banking Ordinance 1958 prohibits any government or government-controlled company from carrying on banking business in Malaysia. Apart from Indian Overseas Bank, two other nationalised banks, viz., Indian Bank and United Commercial Bank, have branches in Malaysia. The question of future set up of branches of the nationalised banks in Malaysia is under consideration of Government.

(b) to (d). Of the 14 nationalised banks, graded according to their deposits and advances, Indian Overseas Bank ranks among the last three. Indian Overseas Bank has 5 branches in Malayaia. The deposits and advances at these branches amounted to Rs. 10.14 crores and Rs. 6.43 crores respectively on 25th September, 1970 as against the deposits and advances of the Indian Overseas Bank in India at Rs. 79.99 crores and Rs. 53.59 crores. Even after leaving out the branches in Malaysia, the deposits and advances of Indian Overseas Bank are substantial and it can carry on as