

Departments would be given a uniform salary. We had sanctioned about 20,000 houses for them. But unfortunately, all those files were misplaced. The position today is that the salary of these employees is different. in NDMC, DESU, MCD. The DDA do not keep Safal Karmacharis. They have transferred this work to the MCD on contract basis. Therefore, I claim full responsibility of what Shri Vajpayee is saying and would like to beg an apology from the august House for not doing it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: As this House and the hon. Members are aware, Bangladesh Biman was operating in this country from Calcutta to Dhaka and other places. It had an office in Calcutta and 28 employees were there. In 1989 they decided to wind up their office and give over their functioning to Air India which has been looking after their jobs. But what happened is that, about these 28 employees who have been retrenched by Bangladesh Biman, there was a clear understanding that they would be taken over by Air India because Air India was discharging their functions. Sir, at a meeting held in Calcutta, which is a meeting of the Joint Committee on Station Performance Improvement on 4th of August 1988, it was recorded that by taking over the function of Bangladesh Biman, Air India will be earning a revenue of about 70 to 80 lakhs of rupees per year and they said that we were agreeable and we could easily accommodate these 28 employees who have been retrenched by Bangladesh Biman. For the last two years, they are sitting on *dharna*; repeated representations have been made to earlier Governments and to this Government also. They are receiving sympathetic approach in the sense that everybody says that we shall sympathetically consider, but nothing is happening. Probably two or three persons have already died because of starvation; no arrangement is being made; we are told of one crore of employment per year, according to your manifesto, Shree Buta Singh. In the last few months at least 25 lakhs could have been

employed. Instead of 25 lakhs employment, we are pleading for employing these 27 people. They are experts, they have expertise in this line. Therefore, I am strongly requesting and imploring the Government. I do not know; the Minister probably is in Goa—nice weather, nice place. But what is happening to these people who are sitting on *dharna*? So, the Minister of Civil Aviation should immediately respond to this by giving appointment to these people, for which there is almost a commitment. This I am reading from the minutes of the meeting in which it was not the representatives of the workers who were present; but the high officials of Air India and the National Airports Authority, etc., were present; and they took a decision which is not being implemented. It is a human problem. I am requesting the Government to take at least compassionate attitude. Not very large number of people are involved. Out of 27 people two have died or probably three have died already. If you are relying on natural wastage, then it is different. But, if you are trying to solve the problem by forcing the people to go on starvation, that is a different problem. We appeal to them. We want to avoid the future spread of the agitation and demonstration. We do not want that the Calcutta Airport should be disturbed. So, we are requesting the Government to respond favourably to this human problem that is there. For no fault of theirs, they are suffering, it is a profitable undertaking whose office was abolished and was made over to Air India, which is making profits by not engaging the workers. Therefore, I strongly demand that the job may be given to these people immediately.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, Calcutta Airport falls in my Constituency; I am associated with this problem; I have met the Minister repeatedly. So, let me recount a few facts about it. The fact is that their number now is 25. The system of work is such that everyday between 40 and 50 contract labourers had to be given jobs in order to undertake that kind of job. We have repeatedly requested the Minister Shri Madhav Rao Scindia that since they require them to do that job, you re-employ them. But

he is not paying heed too it; he seems to be too busy with cricket and Goa.

Sir, earlier the same kind of job was taken over by Air India from the Thai Airways and all those affected were absorbed by the Air India authorities. There was an agreement and the agreement was that the Bangladesh Biman will get some concessions from Air India because the Services of these 28 people will be lent to the Air India. However, after some time, the Air India wanted no more service from them and as a consequence, these 26 people of Bangladesh Biman were retrenched. The argument seems to be that since they are employees of Bangladesh Biman, Air India is not responsible for that. This is what the Air India authorities tried to convey to the Minister and the gullibility of the Minister has really surprised me. This is happening. There is 500-day *Dharna*.

Last time, when the Janata Dal Ministry was there, I was with the Civil Aviation Minister. I talked to him also. Almost the day or during the week, Shri V.P. Singh agreed, while going there in Calcutta, their Ministry toppled. Unfortunately since then I was trying.

MR. SPEAKER: How much time would you need please?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will be brief. But imagine my brevity comparing with the 500 days of *dharna* and at least three lives of the Bangla Desh employees who have died in the meantime.

What is regrettable is that these 25 residual employees have also, in order just to survive there, introduced a trolley service selling cigarettes, etc. I, therefore, request that they should be given an urgent sympathetic consideration by the Minister. If the Minister fails, we request the Prime Minister to look into the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, this is my constituency's question. The persons who have died, as have been referred to by

Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, belonged to Barasat, which is my constituency. They have died of starvation. It is a human problem. It is not a question of political consideration. (*Interruptions*) I have found that they have started a tea-stall at the gate of the airport just for their survival. Nobody is interested to see that the airport should not be clean. Nobody wants that the airport should not be kept properly. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That point has already been made. I don't think that many Members are needed.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRICHITTA BASU: Therefore, I would appeal to see that 25 employees are reinstated so that they can live. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Ram Naik's statement will go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, three days back 'Hindu Divas' was observed in the country on the 14th September. It was celebrated with a view to developing the Hindilanguage giving it due respect and also giving respect to region languages. In this context, I would like to know your attention to an urgent matter about the metropolitan city from which I have been elected. The name of my city is *Mumbai*, but several people say Bombay in Hindi. The Englishmen could not pronounce *Mumbai* and so they named it Bombay.

In the Hindi version of the Indian Constitution, the name of my State in the lists of State, is "Mumbai". At that time, there was no Maharashtra or Gujarat but *Mumbai* State only. I had made this submission during the last Lok Sabha to hon. Shri Rabi Ray and he uling on 12 April, 1990 in the Lok Sabha that my city should be called *Mumbai* in Hindi. Similarly, the Chairman, ave a Rajya Sabha agreed with *Mumbai* was accepted in Hindi. I me and discussed it with