

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : The reply will be given according to your ruling.

*[English]*

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah) : I want to just supplement what our Home Minister has said. A very improper thing has happened. It should not develop into a practice. The standard practice is that in the House whenever a Minister makes a reply or gives an information, that is the final thing so far as the House is concerned. It is the practice. Now, the hon. Members, taking recourse to a statement by a concerned person whose antecedents have been described in the House as very undesirable, and are trying to create an impression that the Minister has misled the House—this is a very improper practice which, I am sorry, my hon. friends are following. It should be noted ; it should not develop into a practice and it should be condemned and criticised.

MR. SPEAKER : You see, I have faith in my Members here...

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Today, they are relying on the statement of that person.

MR. SPEAKER : Doesn't matter That is their point of view. I can only rely on my Members here and the Ministers who are supposed to tell us the facts. You cannot hide the facts. If you hide the facts...

*(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : Nobody is interested in hiding the facts.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How is our Opposition believing the Americans more than our own Ministers here, in this House ?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot take aliens to be more reliable than my Members here.

(ii) Demand for opening of office of Regional Manager of State Bank of India at Berhampur and Bank's Branch at Aska

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Several approaches have been made by all

concerned to Government of India to have a Chief Regional Manager's Office (SBI) at Berhampur (Distt Ganjam), Orissa. Public agitations have started and reported in newspapers. Some Bank Officials at Bhubanesher do not want to shift to Berhampur for reasons obvious and are creating bottlenecks. The Bank authorities have assured more than once, but are lingering the matter on some plea or other. The South-West Zone of Orissa is totally deprived of any administrative set up of Banking industry. The people have to go for each and every administrative clearance to Bhubaneswar. It is adversely affecting the mobilisation of resources and raising of investments. The producers such as Agriculturists and Industrialist do not get the desired encouragements in the field of Banking activities. Immediate steps may be taken in this regard. It is also a long-felt desire of the people of Bhanjanagar to have an evening branch in Bazar Area to help the traders, industrialists, tourists, doctors and other professionals. The matter has been raised several times. Similar steps may also be taken to open a branch either at Aska junction or at Sugar factory area of Aska for the benefit of general public.

(iii) Demand for restoring direct Indian Airlines flight from Delhi to Jabalpur

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAH (Jabalpur) : A direct Indian Airlines early morning flight from Delhi to Jabalpur and back to Delhi via Bhopal was started from 1st June, 1985. The Indian Airlines provided, through this flight, to the vast region of Mahakoshal in Madhya Pradesh its first direct air connection with Delhi. This direct flight has been discontinued from 20th October, 1986. The reported reason given is the financial loss incurred by the Airlines in operating this flight.

The Indian Airlines knows it very well that Delhi to Jabalpur flight right from its inception has been frequently cancelled, particularly in monsoon and winter seasons because the plane does not land whenever the weather is even a little bad. This is because instrumental landing system has not been installed at Jabalpur airfield in spite of repeated requests by me in the past.