

[Shri A. Panchalliah]

When completed, about 1.70 lakh hectares of land can be cultivated. Such is the importance of this project.

Apart from Rs. 68 crores, which is already spent, this project requires another Rs. 84 crores if it is to be completed in the Seventh Plan period.

Hence I request the Government of India to take up this project as a national project and sanction funds for its early completion.

(vi) Need to remove difficulties caused to passengers by introduction of computerised reservations in Indian Airlines

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : For some time past, the Indian Airlines have introduced computerised reservations and it is said that computer would bring relief to passengers and discipline to the organisation. It was also thought that computer would eradicate irregularities and have no room for corruption.

That computerised bookings have created difficulties for passengers is an obvious fact. What, however, is not yet known widely is that computer has been defrauded and passengers have been put to great hardship. It is for days now, that the passengers have to remain in queue before their travel is cleared. The personnel at the counter, will refer to the computer and say, 'Sorry, no vacancy' and that is all. Passengers feel helpless and frustrated and they keep asking as to why has introduction of computer created difficulties rather than having solved them. MPs and other so-called VIPs too have suffered inconvenience as the computer usually says no to a request for reservation. Many people do not know the fact that 'travel agents', touts and some officials of the Indian Airlines have organised the situation of scarcity and, therefore, reservations will continue to be limited. A travel agent will block 5 to 10 seats for instance but indicate only one name to the Airlines or fake names for all passengers. He will not deposit fare for ten seats and indicate names. Once seats are blocked, he will sell the seats at ease and at a price acceptable to him.

The computer has created a scare and the premium is Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per ticket with the travel agent who makes no secret of the contention that he has to

pay a portion of the body to the officials. The premium at the Airport is Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 as some needy passengers to the Airport in the hope of getting hooked against the quota that is left over.

It is not that the computer has failed, but the fact is that computer has been defrauded. As a first step the Minister could cancel reservation for travel agencies. If that is not possible in a democracy, then the travel agents must pay for all seats in cash and indicate correct names in advance. There should be no room for blocking seats. As of now, corruption is rampant and the Minister must apply his mind to correct the things.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Azad, take note of the feelings of the House regarding computerisation. Will you please instruct the Minister in charge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the Minister... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, make a note and take appropriate steps...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : All the other Members also say that...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Yes, Sir, I will. It would be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Immediate action is needed...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

(vii) Demand for an inquiry into non-use and neglect of 'Hospitals on Wheels' obtained from abroad

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Sir, I raise the following matter under rule 377. The Hindustan Times of May 2, 1985 has reported that 318 'Hospitals on Wheels' obtained from abroad have become scrap due to non-use over a long period and neglect of its maintenance. The paper further reports that they are to be auctioned as they