

[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

were beyond repair. It is painful that when the country is short of hospital equipment and large parts of rural areas are not reached by hospital facilities, mobile hospitals should be allowed to rot. The Government must institute an enquiry into this and also ensure that these hospitals are put back on wheels.

SECURITIES CONTRACTS (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call upon Mr. Poojary to move for the consideration of the Bill, I may like to inform the House that amendments could be given up-till 1 O'clock today. Now Mr. Poojary.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, be taken into consideration.

As the hon. Members are aware, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956 deals with stock exchanges and trading in industrial securities of public limited companies. The Stock Exchanges and trading in industrial securities are essential for raising finance for industrial and other projects and for providing liquidity and marketability to investors who are largely small investors. Such investors are spread all over the country. Under the existing system of registration of transfer of securities, they face delays and difficulties. Under the existing law and Articles of Association of most of the companies, the Board of Directors of the companies have power to refuse registration of transfer of securities without assigning any reason. Though the aggrieved persons can appeal to the Company Law Board against such refusal, it places an undue burden on them. Besides, in most of the countries in the world which depend on the capital markets for raising resources for companies, free transferability of securities is ensured. To eliminate hardships to the investors and to modernise the system of transfer of securities in our country, it is proposed to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956 to provide for free transferability of securities listed in the Stock Exchanges. I would further add here

that suitable safeguards to prevent take-over bids have also been incorporated in the amendment. Another significant feature of this Bill is that instead of the investor, the company has to make a reference to the Company Law Board in case of refusal.

Details regarding some of the more important provisions of the Bill are given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill and it may not be necessary for me to repeat them here.

11.45 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Therefore, I would not like to take any further time of the House in elaborating on the Amendment. With these words I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Shri Madhav Reddi.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. It is a very welcome measure. With the existing Company Law, share transfers of small investors and small shareholders are being restricted. Through this Bill the small shareholders are being permitted to obtain the registration of transfers without any difficulty and the registration of transfers will be referred only to the extent the instrument of transfer is not proper or when there is a bid to take over the companies. It is only in these respects that restriction have been imposed. It is a very welcome measure because under the present law the small investors when they want to sell away their shares and when they went to the companies to get their shares transfers registered several companies are refusing to register these transfers.

These companies are having provisions in the Memorandum and Article of Associations powers for giving the Boards of Directors to refuse the registration.

This is very bad. There is no such restriction in any public limited company in any country. All the shares of the public