

[Shri Purnanarayan Sinha].

passengers who demand accommodation for air travel at the present time. The landing area of the Gauhati airport has not been enlarged even for the smaller aircraft that are being used for several flights between Calcutta and other stations in the North East. As an example, it may be cited that on the 8th April 1979, when the Prime Minister's Aircraft was kept at the bordering area at Gauhati airport, the flights due to take off from Calcutta before 0900 hours were all delayed, as Gauhati airport notified that the landing area was being occupied by the Prime Minister's aircraft. The weather at Calcutta and Gauhati was clear and ideal for taking off and landing of aircraft. Because of the delay in taking off at the starting point, the passengers are made to suffer terrible loss in the business, social or political mission on which the people travel by air at such high cost. And when there are lack of facilities at the landing area at the airport, it becomes all the more objectionable. These difficulties to the travelling public are being additionally created by the possession of the airfields in the north-east by the Indian Air force. Tezpur, Jorhat, Chabua (Dibrugarh) etc. are controlled by the Air Force, causing considerable inconvenience to civilian travellers. For the sake of the public, firstly the landing area of Gauhati and other air stations should be enlarged and air force control restricting the entry etc. to the airfield areas of *bona fide* passengers should be removed and proper lounges etc. should be opened where necessary.

(ii) NEED FOR CONVERSION OF HYDERABAD AIRPORT INTO AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SRI P. RAJAGOPALA NAIDU (Chittoor): Madam Chairman, with your permission, I raise the follow-

ing matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

Many people are going every day from Andhra Pradesh to Middle East and other countries through Hyderabad Airport. We can roughly estimate them to be at least 30 persons per day.

Although Hyderabad Airport has been declared as customs clearance Airport, the import requirements of Andhra Pradesh manufacturers have still to be made through the Madras and Bombay Ports causing them much inconvenience. Even the exports of the twelve groups of commodities by air from Hyderabad Airport are transhipped either at the Bombay Airport of Madras Airport into international flights entailing delay till space in international flights is available.

If Hyderabad Airport is upgraded as an international Airport it may not only remove the traffic congestion at the existing International Airports, but also help increase the tourist traffic as Andhra Pradesh is having many places of historical interest and also equipped with star hotels for attracting the tourists in a big way. It will help promote the A.P. exports and imports. Hence the State Government in industries and Commerce Department, Andhra Pradesh, have requested the Commerce Ministry, Government of India, for upgarding Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

I therefore request the Government to convert Hyderabad Airport as an International Airport.

(iii) REPORTED HUNGER STRIKE BY PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DEALERS IN PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL IN DELHI DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FILM ROLLS

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Madam, with your permission I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377: