

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

our public sector national carrier, rupee stands at a great disadvantage compared to the pound sterling. In fact, what one pound sterling can purchase from Air India one requires about 3 times Indian rupees for the same.

I was told that if one pays a price of air ticket in pound sterling then he can buy a return ticket from London to Delhi at about 265 pounds which works out a little over Rs. 4000 whilst when it is paid in Indian rupee it is over Rs. 1,000. And in case of certain other airlines it is over 11,000 rupees.

This is wholly against the interests of the Indian rupee, its prestige and the country's national interest. As a result of this, our national carrier, namely, Air India has immensely helped other international airlines in getting business from Indian passengers. Moreover it has encouraged a tremendous amount of improper remittance of Indian rupees to foreign countries, to obtain sterling and dollar for payment of air fare for Indians living abroad.

In many of the routes Air India often go empty, they indirectly decline rupee paying passengers (who are Indians). But many smaller airlines get their aircraft filled every time. One thing I do not understand is why Air India cannot afford to do what certain other airlines can. They purchase the aircraft from the same source as we do. Many of them purchase fuel from the same source as we do. Yet Air India passengers are required to pay more fare and particularly more so if it is paid in Indian rupee; it is double or more. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister who is here. If you want to make a reply, I shall be grateful.

(iii) NEED FOR NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS BY GOVERNMENT ON THE BOARD OF SYNTHETIC AND CHEMICALS LTD., BAREILLY

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM (Shah-jahanpur): With your kind permission, I raise the following matter under Rule 377 of urgent public importance:

In view of large shareholding of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Nationalised Banks and General Insurance and huge loans by L.I.C., I.C.I.C.I. and I.F.C.I. the Government of India should place two nominees as Directors on the Board of Synthetic & Chemicals Limited, Bareilly (U.P.).

Synthetics & Chemicals Limited, a private sector synthetic rubber producing industry having its monopoly in the country is having large shareholding of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Nationalised Banks and General Insurance Companies. L.I.C., I.C.I.C.I. and I.F.C.I. have also advanced huge amounts as loans to this company. Since the affairs of the Company are not free from doubts and excessive extravagance prevails in this Company which the Company justifies by increasing the prices of its synthetic rubbers, it is of paramount importance that the Government of India should take immediate steps to place at least two nominees on the Board of this Company to ensure that the Government and about 25,000 shareholders get proper returns and unjustified and harmful ways of increasing prices of synthetic rubbers are stopped immediately which costs the rubber consuming industry and the public very much. Also, the prices of synthetic rubbers be immediately reduced and a committee to go into prices be appointed and reasonable prices be fixed by the Government and proper controls on prices be exercised in the interest of the people of the country.

इस कम्पनी में बड़ा घोटाला है। मैंने इस विषय में एक प्रश्न भी किया था लेकिन वह आ नहीं पाया है। मैं इस बारे में आगे घंटे की चर्चा का नोटिस देता हूँ।