

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : But unfortunately, there is a tremendous deforestation problem there.

AN HON. MEMBER : Where ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Unfortunately, I can only refer to West Bengal because your question refers only to West Bengal. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : When you ask him other parts, he will reply to you also. Let him answer... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. He is on his legs... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : He will be able to reply your question, when you put it. Why do you worry ?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, about the latter part of the question relating to the two rhinos, with due apologies to Bhagwat Jha Azad Ji, we can only refer it to the State Government to find out the facts.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Prime Minister has said that there is tremendous deforestation going on in West Bengal. Would the Prime Minister take the House into confidence... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if I may correct him, I said that there is a tremendous deforestation problem, which is slightly different.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : O.K., Sir. I take the latest answer of the Prime Minister... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, this is the answer he has given.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Since the Prime Minister has chosen to use the word 'tremendous', would he be able to quantify and would he also be able to throw a

comparative light at the national level ? Otherwise, it will be a very sweeping allegation. It does not behove the office of the Prime Minister.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will send him a note, Sir.

Expansion of Delhi Airport

*234. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Airport has been renovated and reconstructed;

(b) the total number of flights (national and international) touching Delhi Airport in a day;

(c) whether the Airport has adequate facilities for waiting passengers before the security check is called;

(d) whether the present take off timings have resulted in over-congestion of passengers; and

(e) whether there are proposals to further expand the Delhi Airport ?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI AHMED M. PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir, Part of the main terminal building has been renovated to expand the departure facilities for domestic flights.

(b) According to current schedule, 38 national and 22 international flights take off from Delhi Airport on an average, per day. The number is, however, subject to slight variation as per daily schedule. The number of international flights also includes departure of Air India to Bombay.

(c) The facilities are, by and large, adequate except during peak hours.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A New International Passenger and Cargo Terminal Complex is under construction at Delhi Airport. Consequent to the commissioning of the New International Complex, changes will be carried out in the existing terminal, buildings to increase the

national arrival; departure and baggage claim areas.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, I am happy that the answer to part (d) of the question is 'Yes'. I would like to know whether the Government will rearrange the take-off timings. For instance, in the evening, the flight to Madras via Hyderabad and the flight to Bombay take off simultaneously, with the result that there is no sitting place either before check up or after check up. So, I would like to know whether they will rearrange the take-off timings so that the passengers can have the time to go in for check up and also have sufficient place to sit there. The same thing is there in the morning also. So, will the Government think of changing and rearranging the take-off timings, especially of heavy flights at busy airports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAININGS, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : We can certainly think of changing the flight timings, but the fact remains that there are constraints in staggering the domestic flight timings because there is a preference by passengers for the early morning flights and also because we have to enable the aircraft to perform more sectors and perform more flights a day. As far as the seating arrangement is concerned, there are, at the moment, more than 240 seats in the transit lounge, mostly meant for elderly people and for mothers with infants. We shall certainly see, without cramping everything, whether it can be augmented.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : In answer to (e), the hon. Minister has said that international airport is coming up and after that complex is completed, this will be taken up. May I know how much time will it take in our efforts to make Delhi Airport modern and up-to-date and take it to the 21st century ?

Now, the passenger has to get up, get down and get up instead of straight walking from the gate into the airport. How long will it take for us to have that facility ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : First let them bring the airport to the 21st century.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : This question has been answered earlier during this session in both the Houses. By November 1985 this international terminal will be ready. By that time a lot of these difficulties will be removed.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : It is often experienced that flights are delayed on account of delay in security clearance. It is perhaps on account of deficiency in the number of security points at the airport and also sometimes because X-Ray machines are not working. Will the Government look into this question from both points of view ?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : It is a very useful suggestion.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether the Government intends to make Hyderabad an international airport ? If so, when ?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : There are certain norms and it will be looked into accordingly.

Development of Bhim Band in Munger District (Bihar) as a Tourist Centre

***235. SHRIMATI MANORMA SINGH :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhim Band in Munger District in Bihar where hot water springs exist is an important picnic spot on account of its scenic beauty and springs;

(b) whether Government are also aware that this place has great potential for being developed into a tourist resort; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to develop it as a tourist spot, such as, opening a motel, development of forests, etc. ?