

MR. SPEAKER : You first put the question. You want to board the train before you have bought the ticket.

Underground Railway for Delhi

*70. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Railway Reforms Committee recommended underground railway for Delhi ; and

(b) if so, action taken thereon by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Urban Development, the nodal Ministry for Urban Transport Schemes do not favour an underground railway corridor for Delhi at the present juncture as it is a highly capital intensive proposition.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : I wanted to know what action Government had taken. In reply to part (b) of my question, the hon. Minister has stated that the Ministry of Urban Development do not favour an underground railway corridor for Delhi as it is a highly capital intensive proposition.

(Interruptions)

I do not know English.

What I wanted to know was what action has been taken by his Department ? In the reply, he has mentioned the name of Urban Development Ministry. Still, I want to say that with the increase in population, the pressure of traffic in the Metropolitan cities is increasing and the environment is also being polluted. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of all these problems, the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had announced in 1982 that Underground railway facility would be provided in the metropolitan cities of the country ? If so, what action has since been taken by the Department ?

SHRI BANSI LAL ; I am not aware of any such announcement having been made by the Prime Minister. So far as the

Railway Ministry is concerned, it also concurs with the Ministry of Urban Development.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Concur with what, also state that.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Krishna had always been masculine and Bansi feminine but here it is the other way round.

MR. SPEAKER : Bairagiji, things are topsy turery these days.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Department had done a lot of work in 1972. For example, it was said that underground railway would be laid in Connaught Place in three directions and that an underground junction would be built under the Regal park. It was followed by visits of an Indian Study Team to foreign countries. A survey was also undertaken. Therefore, I want to know how much money has been spent since 1972 by the Railway Ministry on the survey of underground railway project, foreign tours of high officials and other arrangements ?

MR. SPEAKER : She has studied it thoroughly. We shall certainly nominate her as a Member of the Committee if one is constituted in future.

SHRI BANSI LAL : I do not have figures as to how much money was spent, but as I had stated earlier, recommendations were made to lay underground railway line here. We sent that to the Urban Development Ministry. They told us that it required an amount of Rs. 2000 crores. It is because of this that we are not prepared to take it up for the time being.

... (Interruptions) ...

MR. SPEAKER : What more is there to ask ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Bring the entire Delhi Underground.

[English]

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Does the Government have any intention to nationalise mini railways ?

MR. SPEAKER : It does not pertain to the question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, the question of bringing improvement in Delhi's transport system is being debated for the last many years and the need for it is also being felt. Just now, the hon. Minister has stated that he is not in favour of the proposal to built underground railway, as it is a highly capital intensive proposition. Delhi Transport Corporation (D.T.C.) has become the biggest source of corruption and pollution. I want to know whether there is any proposal to introduce electric trolley buses with a view to reducing pollution and improving transport facilities. Is there any scheme to introduce electric trolley buses in Delhi during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : There is no such scheme for the present.

[English]

Declaring Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport

*71. **SHRI T. BASHEER :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a long standing demand from the people of Kerala for declaring the Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport ;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As the existing four international airports were considered adequate to meet the international traffic needs, Government have not hitherto felt the necessity of declaring any other airport including Trivandrum airport as an international airport. There is, therefore, no proposal at present to declare Trivandrum as an International airport.

Government have, however, recently appointed a high-level Committee to, *inter-alia* identify other airports for the development of international operations with a view to reducing congestion at Bombay airport.

SHRI T. BASHEER : The Hon. Minister's reply is very much disappointing. Actually this is a long standing demand by the people of Kerala. About 18 international flights are operating from Trivandrum Airport every week. So, I think there is a strong case for declaring Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport,

Moreover, Sir, some two-three months back our Prime Minister had visited Trivandrum and inaugurated a new terminal building constructed there for this Airport. At that time he said that there is a proposal to declare Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport, and a decision will be taken at the appropriate time. So this is the hon Minister's reply against that. He says that there is no proposal at all. It is very disappointing. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will reconsider the position and will give an assurance that Trivandrum also will be declared as an international airport.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I think the concern of the hon. Member is that Trivandrum airport should be used for international flights. That is being used and that is confirmed. The only question is about declaring Trivandrum as an international airport. We do not declare any airport as an international airport ; we have only international services. Only four international airports have been declared under the 1971 Act when the International Airports Authority of India was set up. But any other airport in the country can be used for international services and Trivandrum is one.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basheer, there are two things. There is a *de jure* government and there is a *de facto* government. You have got a *de facto* international airport and not above it.

SHRI T. BASHEER : I do not understand why it cannot be a *de jure* one. Actually, in the reply the hon. Minister says that Government have, however, recently appointed a high-level committee to identify other airports for the development of international operations and with a view to reducing congestion at the Bombay airport. I should like to say...