

[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...

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a question. Don't give information, you have to elicit the information.

SHRI T. BASHEER : ...that that should not be the only consideration. To my information, the International Airports Authority of India some years ago recommended that certain airports in the country should be declared as international airports and Trivandrum is one of them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the criteria for declaring an airport as an international airport so far as our country is concerned.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The criteria is—traffic, of course, is one. I would like to tell you that the survey has identified five airports in the country and Trivandrum is one, the second is Hyderabad, the third is Ahmedabad, then Bangalore and Nagpur. The object was to remove the congestion which you are having in Bombay. What I submit is that there is no need to declare them as international airports because your concern should be that the people should be able to use the airports for international flights. That we are doing it now.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH : *rose.*

MR. SPEAKER : What have you got about Kerala ?

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH : The Minister says in his reply that Bombay is considered very congested and among the four declared international airports, I feel Calcutta airport is not used at all. As a matter of fact, only a few days back the Government of West Bengal wrote a letter to the Prime Minister about the British Airways.

MR. SPEAKER : This question has been answered many a time on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that they propose to upgrade 5 airports. I want to know the expenditure involved in upgradation of each airport, the time by which they are going to take up this work and when the Nagpur Airport will be included in it ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think there is nothing more to be asked.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur) *rose.*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear what this new Member wants to know.

PROF P. J. KURIEN : About Trivandrum there should be more supplementaries.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The hon. Minister has said that to reduce the congestion at the Bombay airport, they are allowing international flights at the neighbouring airports. What are the reasons that international flights have been stopped operating from Amritsar ? Previously, international flights used to come there.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : There are one or two reasons. The reasons are obvious as to why we stopped the international flights but, I think, we will consider again.

Import Cargo Section at Indira Gandhi Airport Terminal Complex

*72. SHRI V. TULSI RAM :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 27-10-1985 regarding omission to build the import cargo section (an essential part of an airport) of the Indira Gandhi Airport terminal-complex at Delhi Airport ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some amount was also sanctioned for this purpose ; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Complex for both import and export cargo, involving an approved outlay of Rs. 8.00 crores, is already under cons-