

the international airports. As per today's norms, only four airports in the country are recognized as international airports—Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi ; but we do allow charters to come to other parts of the country. If Gulf Air or any other airline would like to bring charters to Trivandrum, I will be the first to allow it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Mr. Mohandas, Prof. Kurien and Shri Vijayaraghavan are not here. Yes, now Mr. Vakkom Purushothaman.

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** I do not want to say that the hon. Minister has been misinformed by the officers, even though I honestly believe so.

The Kerala State Government, Kerala legislature, almost all the MPs from Kerala and many associations have all represented before the Minister. Always we get the reply that it is decided by IATA. We are prepared to give evidence before the hon. Minister if he is willing to conduct an enquiry, viz. that our poor people—labourers and coolies working in Gulf countries—are being looted by Air India by charging exorbitant rates.

I would like to know whether the Minister is willing to conduct an enquiry. We are prepared to give evidence.

**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :** The question of an enquiry would come, if something is brought to my notice, with some documents. I know that this kind of a thing is being done by the other airlines ; and I cannot say that Air India should do this. But what I have already suggested to Air India is that the maximum commission which is allowed, under the rules, should also be given back to the passengers. But I cannot break the rules. I do not expect a national carrier to come and say that it would break the rules.

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** All the MPs, irrespective of party affiliations, expect you to conduct an enquiry.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** They have increased the charge twice in a span of three years. *(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** No ; I cannot. I cannot preach ..*(Interruptions)*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Modernisation of Ginning and Pressing in Cotton Industry

\*435. SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise ginning and pressing practices in cotton industry ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) to what extent this proposal will help both domestic and external consumers ?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) :** (a) Ministry of Textiles do not have any scheme on modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing units outside the cooperative fold ; nor is there any proposal in this regard. For units in the Cooperative Sector, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is operating a scheme on modernisation of existing units and establishment of modern cotton ginning and pressing units.

(b) Under the NCDC Scheme, 80 per cent of the project cost is made available to the State Governments in the cooperatively under-developed States as loan and 65 per cent in other States. The balance is to come as share capital from the State Governments and members. For tribal areas, NCDC provides 60 per cent loan and 20 per cent subsidy to the State Governments to be passed on to the Society. The Scheme provides for modern covered storage facilities, pneumatic handling/conveying of kapas, pre-cleaning of kapas, modern double roller gins and incorporation of appropriate conveying system, wherever feasible.

(c) After modernisation, trash percentage will be reduced considerably and quality cotton will be available to the domestic and external consumer.

### Non-Availability of Satellite Transponder

\*439. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :  
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND