

back a medicine named "New Stegmein", which costs Rs. 2 to Rs. 3, and which is used for anesthesiatic purposes, was not available. Similarly, the medicine called 'Regent' which is used for conducting T-3 and T-4 tests has not been available for the past one month and due to which operations had to be cancelled. Thus, there are a number of such essential medicines, though not costly, which are not available in time. Perhaps these medicines might be available in these hospitals at present but it has been often seen that these medicines are not available. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason for non-availability of these medicines? Will you please get the matter thoroughly investigated by a Parliamentary Committee which may go into the causes of short supply of such medicines. I would also like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problem?

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has expressed his feelings in the House. I appreciate his sentiments. In my reply, I did not try to evade the question. It has all along been our efforts that all kinds of medicines, whether they are ordinary or costly medicines, should be available in the hospitals. If you have ever experienced shortage of essential medicines, I want to assure the House, through you, that such situation will not be allowed to be arisen in future and you will not get a chance to make such complaints in future.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for this assurance. Such a reply was expected of him. I also wanted to know whether a Parliamentary Committee will be constituted to enquire into this whole matter so that it could be found out as to which ordinary medicines were in short supply for the last two months. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking a supplementary.. Is there any harm in asking a question in the House? (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** She has agreed to what you have submitted and she will pay attention in future.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Many many thanks.

[English]

**Purchase of Aircraft of Vayudoot**

\*346. **SHRI SURESH KURUP† :**  
**SHRI ANIL BASU :**

Will the Minister of **CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM** be pleased to state :<sup>2</sup>

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase aircrafts for Vayudoot; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Soviet built aircrafts are also being considered; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :**  
(a) Yes, Sir. Vayudoot is presently evaluating aircraft for induction in its fleet to cater to the projected growth in traffic and for replacing some of the ageing aircraft.

(b) and (c). The Soviet aircraft AN-28 and YAK-42 offered on lease/purchase by M/s Aviaexport of the USSR are separately under consideration of Vayudoot.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** There was a public announcement by the Spanish Prime Minister in the presence of our Prime Minister in Madrid that Spain is going to supply aircraft for Vayudoot. But the answer does not come out with anything. This has created a lot of confusion. I would like to know the facts about this.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** In some newspapers and magazines, news items and write-ups had appeared, according to which the Prime Minister of Spain had said that the Prime Minister of India had agreed to purchase the aircraft from Spain. Now I would like to make it very clear that the Prime Minister of Spain had not said in the interview that the Prime Minister of India had agreed to purchase the aircraft from Spain. This is one aspect. The second aspect is that the aircraft for which references were made is not the aircraft which the Vayudoot is trying to purchase or trying to get. On that count also, there should not be any ambiguity. The terms and conditions which were offered by them were not acceptable to Vayudoot.

and it is at present not being considered by Vayudoot.

Now, some references were also made to certain persons whose names should not have been mentioned. All the allegations and the references made to these persons are malicious and are not correct. They are refuted and we hope that such news items are not published. Such publications create difficulties in good relations between our two countries in many areas.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** I would like to know the projected growth in traffic in Kerala and how many places in Kerala are going to be linked by Vayudoot services in the coming two three years.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** Sir, Vayudoot was brought into existence to meet the demands of the people in the North-Eastern region and in the areas which are at the foothill of Himalayas and which are not connected by any other means of transport. We are catering to the demands of the people of North-Eastern region and the Himalayan region. At the same time, we are trying to provide this facility to the people at many other places in the country. Our intention is to see that all the district places are connected to the state capitals. But that all depends upon the availability of aircrafts availability of funds, availability of other infrastructural facilities. As far as your question is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Availability of passengers also.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PALIL :** This is for the information of the Hon. Member here that passengers are available. We shall have to provide facilities for them. When these things become available, well, the proposal made by the Hon. Member would be considered. But this is not an assurance and we should not be sent a chit saying that this is an assurance and we should comply with it.

**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, what I wanted to know was asked by the Hon. Member Shri Suresh Kurup. I would like to know whether these news items which have appeared in different newspapers referring to the name of the Prime Minister and making many allegations as far as this deal of Vayudoot aircraft is concerned...

**MR. SPEAKER :** This has been refuted. He has already done it.

**SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :** I welcome the statement of the Hon. Minister that all the district places as far as Vayudoot is concerned should be connected with the capital. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY :** I want to ask a supplementary on the North-East.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is not a question of purchase. I will not allow any such supplementary.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Then you put a separate question for that. Do not connect it with this.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :** When I asked the Hon. Minister to provide Vayudoot services, I was told that they could not do it because of scarcity or paucity of aircraft. How long will he take to provide these facilities?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has replied to that Mahajanji that when the funds are available, they will do it

*(Translation)*

Until you have funds, what can you do? There is a proverb; "Count your chickens before they are hatched."

*(English)*

#### Honorarium Paid to Female Attendants

\*348. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT† :**  
**PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres functioning in the country under the Family Welfare Programme are 100 per cent Centrally-sponsored programme;

(b) if so, whether the part-time female attendants working in such centres are paid