

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

fixed amount of rupees fifty per month right from the inception of this programme;

(c) whether State Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to enhance the honorarium from rupees fifty to rupees eighty per month; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Union Government in this regard and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The establishment of Primary Health Centres is under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme and no Central Assistance is provided for them, whereas establishment of sub-centres is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Family Welfare Programme since 1.4.1981. Full assistance except construction of building of Sub-centre and salary of Male multi-purpose worker, as per prescribed pattern of assistance of Government of India is provided to the States for establishment of Sub-centres.

(b) Yes Sir, the female part-time attendants get an honorarium of Rs. 50 p.m.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, the proposal from Maharashtra Government was received but in view of financial constraints, it has not been possible to accept the proposal for increasing the honorarium of voluntary workers at Sub-centres. Enhancement in the honorarium of Voluntary workers at Sub-centres will have wider repercussion on other voluntary workers in the Health Sector.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is free. An hon. lady Member is occupying the office of the Minister. How can the attendants meet their both ends with a meagre amount of Rs. 50 a month ? An employee of Government of India is being paid a meagre amount of Rs. 50 a month. What can be more shameful than this for our Government ? The woman attendants are being paid Rs. 50 a month. Despite the proposal from Maharashtra Government to enhance

this amount Government has not done so. This is not a demand which can not be fulfilled. Our demand has been to increase this amount from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80. I want to know as to what are the duty hours of the attendants and what are their various responsibilities ?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree with the views of the hon. Member. We are making efforts in this regard and it is under consideration. A final decision has not been taken so far and Government is making efforts in this matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not stated as to what are their responsibilities and duties ? I want your protection. My question was as to what is the nature of their duties and how many hours they have to work ?...(Interruptions)

[English]

I expect a reply from the Minister.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I need a separate question on the point that he asked.

[Translation]

I will definitely reply to it...(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Where is the need for a separate question ? It is a simple question, Sir...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will be informed about their duties.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That can be laid on

the Table of the House. Don't worry, it is not a secret information.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is very kind hearted and this question relates to women. A decision has to be taken about female attendants. As a decision has not been taken so far, so it should be taken early...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the question asked by the hon. Member, I want to inform him that our Ministry has received similar demands from several States. As I have stated just now, Government is making all out efforts. We will endeavour to increase the amount considerably but a definite decision has not been taken so far in this regard. I cannot say as to how long will it take to do so but I will try to ensure that it is done as early as possible.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I want to know as to how far is it justified to pay a meagre amount of Rs. 50 to female attendants? The Minimum Honorary and Minimum Wages Acts have been passed by this House. When a law is there in this regard, then why are woman attendants paid such a small honorarium? Will you increase this amount at the earliest?

MR. SPEAKER : She has already replied to this point.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : It is a dispute between two damsels.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I agree with the hon. Lady Member. We also have some limitations. It is an account of financial constraints that we are not able to do it. We will make every efforts to ensure that they get proper honorarium.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Shri Madhav Rao has said that it is a dispute between two damsels. Then how is a Prince sitting between them?

MR. SPEAKER : He has risen above the status of a Prince.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, though the hon. Minister is expressing her sympathy to these part-time female attendants, she is linking this with the need to enhance honorarium of voluntary workers in the health sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister while this Government is spending several crores of rupees on a few trips of the Prime Minister to foreign countries, why does the Government not increase the honorarium... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you doing like this? Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is an irrelevant question. It is absolutely irrelevant. Nothing will go on record. Next question—Shri Ram Dhan.

[*Translation*]

Import of Edible Oils

*349. **SHRI RAM DHAN :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the quantity of imported edible oil to meet the indigenous demand of the edible oils during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the import of edible oil in current year in view of the increased prices of the edible oil in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) No, Sir. There has not been a constant increase in the import of Edible Oils during the last three oil years which were as under :—

*Not recorded.