

LOK SABHA DEBATES.

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 27, 1989/Phalguna 8,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SPAIN

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Honourable Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Felix Pons Irazazabal, President of Congress of Deputies and Hon'ble Members of Spanish Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the delegation are:

1. Mr. Eduardo Martin Toval, Deputy
2. Mr. Jose Ramon Caso, Deputy
3. Mr. Inaki Anasagasti, Deputy
4. Mr. Carlos Ruiz de Soto, Deputy

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 24 February, 1989 morning. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a

happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to His Majesty the King, the Government, the Parliament, and the friendly people of Spain.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Kumar Rai — Absent.

Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik — Absent.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ramoowaliaji, bad luck for you.

[*English*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, I have a supplementary to ask. Can you allow it?

Air Traffic on Indian Airlines/Air India

*62. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to recent aircraft accidents, air traffic both of Indian Airlines and Air India has been adversely affected during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote air traffic in the country and on international routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There was no accident to Air India aircraft, but due to the incidents and accidents to Indian Airlines' aircraft, there was a loss of capacity, some loss of confidence in the employees and adverse publicity all of which affected the working of the airlines, punctuality of flights and the revenue earned by them.

(c) To make good the capacity shortage, aircraft have been inducted on lease. To restore confidence and improve their functioning, Indian Airlines have made special efforts to intensify training and maintenance and modernise their systems. There is also closer coordination between organisations within the Civil Aviation Sector.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tulsiramji, please get on with your work.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the hon. Minister is a gentleman.....

MR. SPEAKER: Is he gentle only in one way and not in another?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The question should have been whether he is gentle or not?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: But ever since he has taken over the charge of this Ministry, there has been one trouble or the other. I do not know whether he is having a bad patch of luck, although he has proved himself a successful Minister in other portfolios. I am afraid that ever since he took over the charge of this Ministry, there is something wrong with him. Either he has spoiled himself or he has been spoiled by somebody else.

MR. SPEAKER: Since when did you become pessimis

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: There is no question of my becoming pessimist so long as

you are there in the Chair. He has admitted that accidents have occurred and delays have been there in the flights but I want to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to check them? If there is delay of one hour, two hours, three hours or 5-6 hours in the flights, it causes inconvenience. Even hon. Speaker had to face such inconvenience. I was also present there. When we were returning to Delhi from Guwahati, both hon. Speaker as well as the Governor Shri Bhisma Narayan Singh had to wait there for about five and half hours. Mr. Speaker stands testimony to the fact that I was there. He himself had to face this delay. Therefore, I want to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to improve this situation?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I want to thank the hon. Member for the sympathy he has shown to me. All of us are very sorry for the accidents. Unfortunately the number of air accidents this year has been very high in the world, for which we also express our deep concern. The hon. Member has asked a very good question as to what steps are being taken by the Government to remove these difficulties. I would like to state, in brief, that efforts are being made to increase the number of aircrafts. Firstly, we are increasing the number of aircrafts by inducting them on lease because a lot of delay takes place in their delivery if these are bought. Earlier, we had acquired aircrafts on lease. Recently, we have acquired three 737 aircrafts from the Boeing company. One 737 aeroplane of Swiss Air has already reached us and we are acquiring two more. Thus, we want to remove this difficulty at the earliest by augmenting the number of aeroplanes.

Secondly, we started air services for several places but it was seen that it did not find favour with the hon. Members and they made suggestions in the House as well as outside the House that it would not matter if frequencies were reduced, but punctuality should be adhered to at any cost. In view of the suggestions made by hon. Members, we reduced the frequencies on some routes. However, we have been maintaining status

quo in respect of air services for the places where air-service was already inadequate. Earlier we used to cover 7 places, now we are covering only 5 to 6 places. Thus we have tried to increase the capacity. But I would like to inform the House that though this has not brought about complete improvement, yet things have improved for the better.

Thirdly, we know it pretty well that there have been very good rains last year and they are highly beneficial for agriculture. It will no doubt result in increase in the agricultural production but rains cause hindrance in the operation of air-services. Thus, this has been affected by rains also.

I would also like to inform you that we have made efforts to restore the confidence of the people which was eroded due to these accidents and we have been successful on this score. The other problems have also been sorted out. We have reached settlement with six of the 8 unions of Indian Airlines and we hope that its functioning will improve and the inconvenience to the people will be reduced. I do not say that the hon. Members have not experienced inconvenience or there were no delays in the flights. But the Government is making efforts to reduce the difficulties of the partous of the Airlines and provide maximum facilities to them. But I would like to draw your attention to the point that the demand for the aircrafts is fast increasing but the question is whether we can induct that much number of aircrafts or not. I request the hon. Member to evaluate the performance of the Airlines keeping in view the above mentioned aspects.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the number of aircrafts will be increased. I want to know to what extent it will be increased? Is there any provision for Hyderabad? I want to bring one point to your notice that the whole House including Mr. Speaker and the Government know that telephone number of every ticket holder is written on the ticket in order to inform him of any delay in flights. But I want to know from the hon. Minister whether even

a single passenger has been informed by them on telephone? This is a very important issue. I do not want to blame them squarely but the fact is that these people never inform the passengers about delay in flights. I want to tell you about one incident. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope you will excuse me as I want to take some more time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a lot of work.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: This is a very important point. What to talk of giving information on telephone, no response is given to the telephone calls made by passengers, as they simply put down the receiver. If the hon. Minister wants to see, he may please come with me. If he visits their offices alone, he will also say that everything is okay. But I tell you that they usually put down the receiver and no response is given to the calls.

MR. SPEAKER: They are the birds of the same feather.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Firstly we do not get their number and if by chance we get their number, no response is given to it. I want to bring it to his notice. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to narrate one incident. I was to go by the flight scheduled to leave at 6.20 p.m. At 5.25 I enquired from the Parliament computer and got the answer that the flight was on time. But on reaching the Airport the notice was put that it would leave at 2 A.M. in the night. Therefore, in the event of delay, they should at least inform about the time.....

MR. SPEAKER: There seems to be no end to your question on Indian Airlines?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: It is a very important problem. The Hon. Prime Minister is also present in the House. I want to bring this to his notice and once he assures me, I will not ask any more supplementary question...(Interruptions).....

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Sir, may I assume the hon.

Member means that he will not ask any more questions or is it that he will not ask any more questions only on this topic?

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: You have mentioned this earlier also in the same question... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: It is a very trivial issue and you are asking me to take its responsibility. I can take responsibility if there is some big issue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the second question of the hon. Member regarding provision of facilities to the passengers, I would like to inform that the auto informing machines are being used at some places and their number will be increased at some places. We are trying to give informations by increasing telephone connections also. I fully agree with the point that all these facilities should be provided to the passengers. We will try to correct the mistakes if committed at all. But I want to tell you that all efforts are being made to improve the functioning of Civil Aviation. We have received many important suggestions from the Hon. Prime Minister. These include imparting good training to other departments, maintenance, increase in the capacity and use of modernised and computer machines etc. You will see all these changes, but even if it is started immediately, it will at least take one year in modernising it, this being such a big task. I would like to assure you that we will try our best to improve its functioning. This is right that your demands and expectations are sky-high and we will make all efforts to fulfil them but I request the hon. Members that while putting forward demands, they should keep in view resources and funds at our disposal.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the aeroplanes are flown without check certificates. It has been reported in the Indian Express of 23rd February that the aeroplane going from Delhi to Trivandrum via Goa was detected by the engineer of Goa and certifi-

cate to fly further was not given to it. They had to come back to Delhi for taking it. How will the aircrafts function properly if the work is performed in such an irresponsible manner. (Interruptions)

[English]

Extension of Service of IAS/IPS Officers

*63. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Union Government not to give extension of service to IAS/IPS officers of the Central Government after the age of superannuation;

(b) if so, whether this decision has been uniformly applied;

(c) the number and details of cases where extensions have been given in 1987, 1988 and 1989 by the Union Government to such officers serving in different Ministries in Delhi or on deputation to the Government of India. and

(d) the rationale behind these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no separate policy of the Central Government governing extension of Service after the age of superannuation of IAS/IPS officers. In this matter, they are governed by the criteria framed by the Central Government in respect of the Central Government employees. According to these criteria, extension in service can be granted in very rare and exceptional circumstances.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Statement is given below.

(d) Since these officers were engaged in matters of vital importance, extensions were given to enable them to complete