

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you are welcome to do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are 544 Members and you are going to walk out like that. I can't afford it. You get the maximum number of opportunities and still you walk out. All right.

Now, Mr. Ajit Bag. Absent. Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: As you have said,...

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question, Mr. Halder. This is taking things too far. You do not appreciate my position at all and you do not realise my difficulties also. I could appreciate your cooperation with me, not to hinder my work.

Now, Question No. 271—Shri R. L. P. Verma.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry about it and I will get for you something. I will work out. If this is a socialist society and we are trying to make one, then I think in regard to the distribution of Supplementaries I will bring you out as a monopolist.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will prove it.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I am a socialist and a Communist. I want equal distribution.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will prove it, with facts and figures.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: What did you have for breakfast today?

MR. SPEAKER: I had two glasses of milk only.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I think the conjunction of planets is having some influence. Everybody is getting angry today.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Your case may be referred to the MRTP Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Right you are: I accept that suggestion.

Food poisoning aboard A.I. Flight

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*274. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:

SHRI A. T. PATIL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 passengers of an Air India flight for Frankfurt on 13 February, 1982 suffered from food poisoning;

(b) whether any of the passengers had to be hospitalised;

(c) what were the causes of the food poisoning; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto and what steps have been taken for strict check of food items to be served on air flights?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. About 50 passengers on flight No. AI-151 on 13th February, 1982 had symptoms of food poisoning, four hours after lunch service. One passenger and two crew members were taken to hospital. The crew after a few hours observation, were discharged but the passenger was kept on observation for four days because of his old age.

(c) It is reported that food poisoning was essentially on account of consumption of contaminated Ras-malai and Mixed Salad.

(d) Air India has carried out detailed investigations into this matter

both at Delhi and Frankfurt and the report of the enquiry is awaited. Periodic analysis of the food samples from Chefair Flight Kitchen are being intensified in view of incident.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: I would thank the Minister that at least he has admitted frankly that Air India flight had food contamination and as a result of this fifty passengers were affected. But the reply is still not satisfactory so far as what steps he has taken to see that this contamination does not take place. What is important is that Air India has an image the world over and, unfortunately, this image is being rocked. The other day there was a question with regard to fuel. Today there is a question with regard to food. In these circumstances may I know—apart from whatever he has stated and apart from the fact that he may not take the excuse of the so-called Enquiry Committee Report—what concrete steps he has taken to see that this sort of food contamination does not occur? What was the reason for food contamination? He has said it was Rasmalai and Mixed Salad which were contaminated. Why was it contaminated? What is his preliminary investigation report? What steps has he taken to see that this does not re-occur?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: On this particular date the Air India flight was running late. Therefore, all the food stuffs were protected by dry ice. Unfortunately, these two items were not and that is why this incident has taken place. For that purpose we have not only taken up the matter with the staff concerned, but we have also issued suitable instructions to see that surprise checks should be made from time to time on these flights to see that the food stuffs served in these flights are up to the mark and they are free from contamination. This is what has been done.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: The Minister has said that Rasmalai and the Mixed Salad

were not stored at a proper place. It is a fact that Rasmalai is such a food which easily gets contaminated. We would like the Minister to serve it to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow that one!

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Not the contaminated one Sir. I would like to ask the Minister in view of the fact that this is a known thing why was this not kept at a proper place and what action has been taken against those who are responsible for not keeping it at a proper place?

As far as part (b) is concerned, which is very important, was this reported only for the first time or had it occurred earlier also and if so what are the details of the contamination?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I have no information about any such incident having taken place earlier. So far as the further steps taken are concerned, the supply of *Rasmalai* has been discontinued.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: What about the mixed fruit salad?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have said that we are having surprise checks from time to time to see that these things do not occur again. As I have already said, so far as *Rasmalai* is concerned, the supply has been discontinued.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: I have asked about the action against those who are responsible.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: About the action taken against the people who are responsible, I have to say that we have already set up a committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Medical Officer of Air India to go into the detail of the incident and fix the responsibility on the persons concerned. On receipt of the Chief

Medical Officer's, report further action will be taken.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: Sir, no doubt, the responsibility may be fixed and surprise checks can also be made. But as the matter stands, since this is a commercial service, it is possible that the service may be motivated by higher gains and profits. Therefore, all sorts of adulteration and all those things may crop up in the service. The question, therefore is not merely of surprise checks or fixing liability or responsibility on any one of them but to improve the entire service. I am talking about the improvement of the entire service and not about this single incident only. What action has been taken to improve the entire service? Did the Government study the rules and regulations prevailing in other international air services and if so, what comparative measures can be suitably taken so that the entire service can be improved?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Member that such incidents do, to some extent, go to damage our reputation. But unfortunately, I can only say that this has happened and we have taken necessary steps to see that such things are not repeated in future. It is only for this purpose that more regular and/or surprise checks are conducted to see that things which are served are in proper order.

श्री भीम सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आम तौर पर फरवरी महीने में घरों में रखी हुई रसमलाई खराब नहीं होती है, इस लिए जिस कांन्ट्रैक्टर ने सप्लाई की है, कहीं उस ने तो खराब सप्लाई नहीं की थी? क्या आप ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : यह सही है कि रसमलाई प्राइवट कांन्ट्रैक्टर से ही ली गई थी, इसी लिये उस की सप्लाई को बन्द कर दिया गया है। चूँकि कई घन्टे तक ड्राई आइस के ज़रिए इस की प्रोटेक्शन नहीं हुई थी। और

जो दूसरी खाने की चीजें थीं, व खराब नहीं हुई लेकिन इस के लिए जो प्रोटेक्शन होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं किया गया था, इसलिए इस में खराबी आई और ऐसी बात साबित भी हुई है। हम ने इस संबंध में दो स्टैंप्स लिये हैं। एक तो रसमलाई सप्लाई करना बन्द कर दिया है और दूसरे इस बात की हिदायत की गई है कि खाने-पीने की जो चीजें हैं इस तरह की, उन में खराबी न हो, इस के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा चैकिंग की जाए।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: He asked, "Have you taken action against the contractor"?

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : जब खाने की चीज जहरीली हो गई तो उस के खिलाफ मुकदमा होना चाहिये।

Export of compound livestock feed

*276. **SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export compound livestock feed;

(b) whether the poultry sector has protested against it;

(c) whether the domestic demand for compound livestock feed is met in full; and

(d) if not, the reasons for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from the poultry sector from time to time.

(c) and (d) The export quota has been determined with due regard to the domestic requirements.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: I want to know from the hon. Minister the total