

production of compound livestock feed and the total domestic demand in the country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Our capacity to produce compound cattle and poultry feed is 2 million tonnes. But that capacity is utilised only to the extent of 50 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent capacity is not utilised. From this fact, we can infer that there is no great demand as far as compound cattle and poultry feed is concerned.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: What are the points raised by the poultry sector in their representation and the steps taken to meet their demands.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The representation says that it should not be exported. Their point is that if it is exported, the prices will go up and it will not be economical for poultry farmers to carry on with their business. That is their stand. Because this material is available in abundance in our country, we do not think that the prices will go up. If at any time there is scarcity of this material, we can have a second look at the decision we have taken. If the prices sky-rocket or go beyond a certain limit which will not be economical for the poultry farmers, we can review the decision. But today it is not necessary to take any other kind of decision because this material is available in abundance in our country.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The hon. Minister has said that the factories are working only to 50 per cent capacity. I want to know whether he will make efforts to see that the factories work to full capacity and export substantial quantities of compound livestock feed to other countries to earn foreign exchange.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is a good suggestion. If it is possible, we would certainly like to do that. Whatever is possible and necessary will be done.

Financial working of Air

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*277. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is expecting a profit of Rs. 10 crores in the financial year 1981-82; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Air India has proposed the acquisition of three long range Air buses, B-4 planes for Madras-Singapore and Bombay to Persian Gulf service?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) It is expected that Air-India would earn a net profit of Rs. 10 crores during the year 1981-82.

(b) The A.I. propose to use these aircraft for medium range short-haul routes.

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताएंगे कि यह जो 10 करोड़ रुपये का अनुमानित लाभ होने वाला है, उस में यह वर्ष जो मार्च में समाप्त होने वाला है, उस का कितना है और अब तक कितनी आय हो चुकी है ?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : यह जो 10 करोड़ रुपये के फायदे की बात कही गई है, इस का अनुमान 31 मार्च तक का ही लगाया गया है ।

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : ये जो 4 एयर-बस खरीदने की बात है, उस के बाद इस वर्ष का शुद्ध लाभ कितना रहेगा ?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : चार नहीं, तीन खरीदने की बात हो रही है । लेकिन इसका अभी अनुमान लगाना मुश्किल है । अभी कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता है ।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has looked at the balance-sheet of Air India and has found that this Rs. 10 crores is largely due to the Gulf traffic.

Air India is making losses on all the other Sectors. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of this position and, if so, what steps the Government is going to take to ensure the profitability of Air India on other Sectors.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: My hon. friend perhaps knows that all over the world, most of the Airlines are running at a loss. It is only Air India which is...

(Interruptions)

I was saying that all over the world most of the Airlines are running at a loss. It is only Air India that has been running in profit and that also this year.

It is true that most of the profits earned by Air India accrue from the Gulf route. But we have to calculate the over-all profit and loss. In one Sector we may make some loss and in another Sector, we may make some profit. So, it is the over-all result of the performance of the Corporation that I have placed before the House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Are you satisfied with the answer? I asked what steps the Government is going to take to ensure profitability on other routes. There are 8 routes but 7 of them are in loss. Only one of them is in profit. And you say you are happy. It is a very dangerous position.

MR. SPEAKER: It is Great Swamy's will!

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: It is true. But I have stopped travelling by Air India.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't say that.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Air India's profit is at the cost of the reduction in service of the number of staff who are employed. You have reduced the number.

Secondly, it is also due to the over-booking that is being done which is inconvenient to the passengers and which is also causing unpopularity to Air India.

I think these are the only factors which are bringing profit to Air India.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: There is no reduction so far as the number of staff is concerned. It is true that over-booking is done. But this is the usual practice. My hon. friend is aware of the fact that in international booking, there is no cancellation charges and, therefore, some people may possibly drop out at any time. This over-booking may not ultimately cause any inconvenience to the passengers.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I have a small question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Nothing.

Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association

*278. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 64th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association has called for a reappraisal of controls mechanism and to regulate them in such a manner that the consumers were protected;

(b) if so, the action taken to administer prices to encourage higher production and step up supplies; and

(c) the steps envisaged to check the economic exploitation of the weaker sections of the society and work out corrective measures?