

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Friday, June 13, 1980/Jyaistha 23,  
1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Air Service between Trivandrum and Delhi

\*81. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Centre to start a direct Air Service between Trivandrum and Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the demand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A request was received in March, 1980 and was examined in consultation with Indian Airlines. The Government of Kerala was informed that an immediate connection is available everyday for passengers travelling from Trivandrum to New Delhi via Bombay. For the journey from Delhi to Trivandrum the timings will

be improved later this year with the augmentation of Indian Airlines fleet.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: As it is, you know that Kerala is neglected for many things. But, in the matter of air-services, we can only get a connecting link to Madras. The services operate only for three days in a week. Will the Minister kindly see to it that in all the seven days of a week the link to Madras is arranged?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, the Indian Airlines will be augmenting their fleet from the month of June-July. With that augmentation, I think that it will be possible to provide a direct air link between Delhi and Trivandrum and back to Delhi.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: With regard to Kerala, we have only two aerodromes. Long before, the Government of India promised that we would have another aerodrome in Calicut. Will the Government see that expeditious steps are taken to start another aerodrome in Calicut also?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Although this question does not arise from this question, I am not in a position to give any answer on this point whether it would be possible to do that.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: What the Minister has stated is that there are flights from Delhi via Bombay to Trivandrum. So also is the case with regard to Cochin. Is that the reason for not granting a direct flight from Delhi to Trivandrum? From Delhi to

Trivandrum there is a huge traffic as also cargo traffic.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** It is not correct to say that there is a huge traffic. As a matter of fact, the traffic may not justify a direct link. But, still, in consideration of the wishes of the people of Kerala and also in view of the representation made by Kerala Government, we have considered that with the augmentation of the fleet from next month, it may be possible for us to provide a direct flight between Delhi and Trivandrum and back to Delhi.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** Is the decision taken by Government to have direct flights from Delhi to Trivandrum and back and so on a part of the policy of the Government's wanting to link Delhi with the State Capitals? If it is so, then what about the assurance given by the former Minister, Shri J. B. Patnaik to link State Capitals directly? So far, Delhi is not linked with all State Capitals.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** I quite agree with the hon. Member. It will be our endeavour again to see that with the augmentation of the fleet to see that most of the capitals, if not, all the capitals, are connected with Delhi.

**SHRI MUNDACKAL GEORGE JOSEPH:** We have to wait at Madras or at Bangalore long. Can't you change the timing in such a way so that we can reach there on the evening. At least early in the morning we may be able to go to our places. As it is we have to halt at Madras, Bombay or Bangalore. If the adjustment of time is made, then we would be able to go to Cochin or Trivandrum in the early morning straightway.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** Sir, the hon. Member will not find this difficulty after we re-schedule the timings between Delhi and Trivandrum and Bombay and Delhi.

### Reported Flight of Fokker-28 Aircraft over Chittagong Hill Tracts

\*82. **SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 9th May, 1980 a Fokker-28 aircraft with 39 passengers aboard after taking off from Agartala Airport on its way to Calcutta got lost and was seen flying over Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of the mechanical fault that led to such a situation and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Preliminary reports indicate that Indian Airlines F-27 aircraft VT-EBJ operating scheduled flight IC-238 took off from Agartala at 2100 hrs, deviated from the normal route due to bad weather and landed at Calcutta at 2345 hrs. on May 8, 1980.

The matter is under investigation by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** Sir, according to the *Calcutta Statesman* of May 10, a F-27 aircraft after taking off from Agartala airport had lost its way due to navigational fault. A British Airways aircraft coming to Calcutta after receiving the alert from the flight information centre could establish contact with F-27 aircraft and led it safely to the Calcutta airport. Now, this news has been attributed by the *Statesman* to the British Airways sources and the *Statesman* says that the British Airways have issued a statement to that effect. Will the Government call for a copy of the statement and ascertain whether the version given by the Minister here is correct or the version given in the between Delhi and Trivandrum and Airways is correct. If the version of