

Visit of Transport Minister to U.K.

*886. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited United Kingdom during July, 1980 and held talks with British Minister of Transport; and

(b) if so, outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIAION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit the Minister called on the Minister of Transport in U.K. and exchange views on subjects of common interest like shipping, inland water transport, ports, Indo-British cooperation in shipping etc.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: He has given a general reply; he has not given any particular subject. What is the result of it?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: There was no fixed agenda for the meeting. As I had stated, we discussed general matters, common matters of common regarding shipping and transport between the two countries.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: If it is not very confidential, he can disclose to this House what he actually discussed. Is it that he has gone there to discuss this 'comon matters' and this thing and that thing and come back, is that all?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Actually the visit was in connection with launching of a ship and naming of another ship. That was the main purpose of the visit and this meeting with the Transport Minister of U.K. was, of course, informal because I was there, I wanted to exchange views with him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You will remember that when Mr. Agha Shahi was here and made some comments about the press here, none

of us liked it. Is it a fact when the Minister was in U.K. he made remarks about the press there particularly about the coverage of the sad event of Shri Sanjay Gandhi's death here, this actually was taken adverse notice of by the British press and created a strain between India and England.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I do not know who took what interest. But I must confess that when I was there. I also took the opportunity to express our unhappiness at the way the British press has commented on the death of late Sanjay Gandhi describing him as a crown prince and also talking about the end of dynastic rule or something like that. When the British press met me I definitely conveyed the unhappiness of the people of this country, the Government of this country, at the way the comments have been made. I conveyed this to the British Government also.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Did he pay informal visit to U.K. and informally discuss many things with his counterpart? Did he discuss about Pitts S2A also there?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I did not talk about question. (*Interruptions*)

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: On the 23rd of June when Shri Sanjay Gandhi died, BBC showed a film in which they showed that in U.P. some Muslims were praying in the mosque—that Sanjay Gandhi has died and, therefore, they have got deliverance and they were praying to God. I would like to ask the Minister: did he complain to the British Government about showing Muslims praying against a man who has become a hero and they showed Muslims praying in the Mosque and it was shown that these Muslims were praying and that their prayer had been answered because Sanjay Gandhi had died. I would like to ask the Minister, is it not a shame that our Minister should go to that country where they treat us like that?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said what was the purpose of the visit. It was not the question of going to that country. We are buying ship from that country and this was an occasion for launching the ship and naming the ship. It was for that purpose I had been there. Had I known this particular thing from my friend, I would have conveyed it to the British Government in the same manner as I conveyed to the British Transport Minister and I requested him that the feeling of unhappiness of the people of India and the Government should also be conveyed to the Prime Minister of U.K. I may say that the British Transport Minister apologised for the way this has been commented upon and he said that sometimes the British press comment against them also. So far as the British Government is concerned and so far as the British people are concerned, whatever comment has come in the British press, it does not represent their views; that means the views of the people and the views of the British Government. (*Interruptions*)

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: One question is there definitely. When the film on Prince's death was shown in U.K., the British Prime Minister and the Government there had to apologise to the Saudi Arabian Government. Have they apologised to your Government? I want to know in this House whether the British Government has apologised for defaming the Muslims of India.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: This is a question which my hon. friend has raised in the House, in all humility, I want to tell him that it was not before me, otherwise I would have raised this question also, as I have already stated about the comment of the British press.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Is Government thinking of it now? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said that I have conveyed the unhappiness of the people and the Government of this country to the British Government and to which the Transport Minister apologised.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Doctors working in CGHS and avenues of promotion

*881. **SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total number of doctors working under the CGHS in various grades separately;

(b) the avenues of promotion available to them and the average time taken to get next promotion for each of the grades separately;

(c) whether there is frustration among senior doctors due to bleak promotion prospects and acute stagnation;

(d) whether Selection grade posts would be created to remove stagnation among them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Two Statements containing the requisite information are placed on the Table of the Sabha (Annexure I and Annexure II).

(c) The Government has received some representations from CGHS Officers' Association in this regard.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no such provision in the existing Central Health Service Rules.