

Delhi to Trivandrum and Cochin. Will the hon. Minister say when it will be started?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** This does not arise out of the main question.

**SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE:** Trivandrum is the capital of the State.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** It is already airlinked.

**SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA:** Arising out of this during the second world war an airport was constructed near Jamnagar at Khambhalia. That is a very strategic airport. From that airport our plane can reach Karachi within 5 to 7 minutes. That airport is out of commission at present. Will the hon. Minister take steps to see that this airport is put into commission?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** This question relates to air-linking of State capitals. My friend's question does not arise out of this question. But I can tell him that there is no such proposal for the present.

**SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA:** But the airport had already been constructed. It is a question of utilising it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question—Shri Ram Pyare Panika—Absent, Q. No. 357—Shri Arunachalam—Absent. Shri Rahia—Absent. We will have to do something about it.

#### **Demonstrations by Income-tax officers of Western Maharashtra**

\*358. **SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income-tax Officers all over Western Maharashtra staged demonstrations in front of their offices on or about 9th February 1981;

(b) the demands of these Officers; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) The Income-tax Officers of the Commissioner of Income-tax Bombay Charge, had staged demonstrations during the Protest Week from 9th to 13th February, 1981.

(b) The demands are as follows:—

(i) Abolition of class distinction among the Income-tax Officers functioning on inter-changeable posts;

(ii) Immediate promotion of all Group 'B' Income-tax Officers with five years or more service to the Group 'A' senior scale;

(iii) Grant of pay-scale of Rs. 840—1200 to the Incometax Officers (Group 'B');

(iv) Scrapping of seniority rules of 1973;

(v) Fixation of reasonable and scientific norms for all the grades of the officers of the Department; and

(vi) Proper cadre management for all officers in consultation with the Federation.

(c) These demands have been carefully examined from time to time but it has not been found possible to accept them in the form presented. The question, however, of improving the career prospects of the officers in the Incometax Department is kept under constant review and appropriate action taken as and when considered necessary.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** The statement of the Government says that it has not been found possible to accept them (the demands) in the form presented. It is a very vague statement. I would request the Gov-

ernment to elucidate this point. The demand are very reasonable such as the abolition of class distinction among the Income-tax Officers functioning on inter-changeable posts, fixation of reasonable and scientific norms for all the grades of the officers of the Department and so on. Why are these demands not acceptable to the Government? When the Government says that they are not acceptable in the form presented, then what is it and in what form is it acceptable to the Government?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** The statement is quite clear and it is in no way ambiguous. Even then for the information of the hon. Member I would like to draw his attention to the last para of the statement wherein I mentioned:

"The question however, of improving the career prospects of the officers in the Income-tax Department is kept under constant review and appropriate action taken as and when considered necessary."

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister unfortunately wants to keep the whole thing vague, but then the officers have already given their intention to intensify the stir. In view of this particular fact may I know what negotiations are going on between the Government and these officers? What steps are being taken to settle the matter amicably?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** Sir, there are four demands and there are also some other related demands. If you permit me; Sir, I can give the details.

**MR. SPEAKER:** He just wants to know if there are any specific things going on to settle the dispute.

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** It is under the consideration of the Government and after consultations with the Federation if it is found appropriate, action will be taken. Other-

wise I will give full information, but it takes a very long time.

**SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL:** Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the demands are under consideration. At the same time these officers have threatened to go on strike as direct action. What I would like to know is: What are the steps taken by the Government to have a dialogue with this Department and has the Government taken any concrete steps to convince them that a parity will be adopted in the matter of different departments of the Government?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** The question of keeping parity between different departments does not arise out of this question. Government has taken a serious view of the agitational approach adopted by the Gazetted Officers representing the Federation of Income-Tax Gazetted Services Association, particularly when the so-called grievances are already receiving the attention of the Government. The attention of the Federation was drawn to the agitational methods like dharna, pen-down strike, and walk-out and they were advised not to resort to pressure tactics which are in violation of the Central rules. The Commissioners of Income-tax were advised simultaneously to maintain discipline and to ensure that the public are not inconvenienced. Wiser counsel, however has prevailed and the leaders of the Federation have called off their agitation.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** Sir, I have a Supplementary on this question. It is a very important question. In view of the need to keep these income-tax officers like the Excise officers and the police in proper condition of satisfaction of the conditions of their service, would the Government pay some special attention in order to see that even if they are not paid anything more than the other Gazetted officers, all their reasonable demands are attended to not in the usual bureau-

cratic, slow manner, but in an expeditious manner because we depended so much upon these people for gaining the revenues for the State and also seeing to it that the tax-payers are not harassed in any way?

**MR. SPEAKER:** What about the rural people?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** Sir, the hon. Member is a senior Member of the House and whatever he has suggested will be taken into account.

#### Walk through system at international airports

\*359. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced "Walk Through System" at the Country's international airports; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check smuggling?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):**

(a) "Walk Through System" has been introduced in the Green Channel for the speedy clearance of tourists and passengers who have no dutiable goods or who have nothing to declare to the customs.

(b) With a view to preventing the abuse of the system and to checking smuggling there will be a selective percentage check of the passengers. Other measures, such as closer supervision, better intelligence and surveillance arrangements have also been adopted.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to strengthen the Department's machinery after the

introduction of this "Walk Through System" at the international airports. If so, what are the details thereof?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** I have just now read the precautions which the Department proposes to take and the details have also been given.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** What steps have been taken to update the facilities at the air port and may I also know....

**MR. SPEAKER:** That does not flow from this question.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Has the Government accepted the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1973 regarding the airport facilities?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** There was no Committee appointed in 1973. A Committee was appointed in 1978 and all the recommendations of the Committee have been taken care of.

चाय के बारे में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी

\*360. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय चाय संघ, कलकत्ता के तत्वावधान में जनवरी, 1981 में काय के बारे में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस में किन-किन मुद्दों पर विचार विमर्श किया गया ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.