

far as the project office is concerned, to maintain better relations with the employees and to develop the project concerned, it is already in Khetri. Therefore, this is the rationale which the Government had while shifting the head office.

आचार्य भगवान देव : : मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया है कि खेतड़ी, राजस्थान, और मध्य प्रदेश में कापर का उत्पादन होता है तो सरकार ने बड़े शहरों में ही कार्यालय खोलने का निश्चय क्यों किया ? वहां से कार्यालय हटा कर उस क्षेत्र के अंदर जहां कापर पैदा होता है, इसका कार्यालय खोलने में क्या दिक्कत है ? वहीं क्यों न इसका कार्यालय खोला जाय ? इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या करना चाहती है ? जब वहां सुविधाएं नहीं हैं, कर्मचारियों को वहां जाना आना पड़ता है, इससे कितनी दिक्कतें खड़ी होती हैं और कितनी अशुविधाएं होती हैं, तो खेतड़ी में यह कार्यालय खोलने में या मध्य प्रदेश या राजस्थान के किसी अन्य स्थान में यह कार्यालय खोलने में क्या दिक्कत है ? इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार अपना स्पष्टीकरण दे ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already indicated that apart from Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar are also there.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: The Minister had agreed that the office was shifted to Calcutta in the year 1973. Three other companies are brought within the purview of the Copper Project. Because there is a large concentration of population in Calcutta which is already overcrowded, would it not be desirable to shift the office either to Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan or to Bihar rather than locating it in Calcutta?

And, if not, why not?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I cannot make any comment on this suggestion.

News Item Captioned "Third Airline will Eat into IA Revenue"

*74. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Conference addressed by Shri Begchi, General Secretary, Indian Commercial Pilots Association and published in 'Business Standard' of 16th January, 1981 under the caption "3rd Airline will eat into I.A. revenue"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(b) Vayudoot is operating to stations, presently not being operated by Indian Airlines. As such, the question of Vayudoot eating into the revenue of Indian Airlines does not arise. On the other hand, it is expected that the feeder service will provide more passengers for air travel by Indian Airlines services.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, it has been stated that the Government is going to give Rs. 20 crores as subsidy to the third airline. Sir, in addition to the existing services the Indian Airlines can operate to new stations if only Rs. 6 crores are given to them. What is the reaction to the government to this?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding. The government is not considering to give any subsidy to the third airline. The only concession that has been given to the Vayudoot is reduction in fares to the tune of 13 per cent more than the Indian Airlines. The Indian Airlines

at present has a concession of 17 per cent and this Vayudoot will be having 30 per cent. I would also like to clarify that there has been some miss-conception in the minds of some people that Vayudoot is going to operate in those sectors where Indian Airlines is operating but that is not correct. It is operating absolutely in a different sector.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The Uttar Pradesh government has announced that it is going to operate flights to stations like Agra, Varanasi and other important places of pilgrimage. So, it is feared that the importance of Indian Airlines would get reduced and the future of the employees of the Indian Airlines would become very bleak. What is the reaction of the Government to this?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Several State governments have come up to the Central government with the request that they should be permitted to operate feeder services in their State. I have said in answer to the previous question that this proposal is under consideration and there is no question of any State government *suo moto* making announcement in this respect.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Sir, referring to Questions No. 61 and 62 and in conjunction to the answer given to Question No. 74 may I ask the hon'ble Minister that he had given an assurance on the Floor of the House that Calicut airport will be developed and airlines would be flown to Calicut in 1980? I would like to know why it has not been done and also when it will be done?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Although this question does not arise out of the present question yet I would like to tell my friend that already the estimate is being prepared for developing Calicut as an airport where Boeings could land. Previously, it was being developed for Arro landing. On the requests from the people of his State we are now changing the estimate and preparing the estimates for Boeing landing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Revision in rate of House rent and city compensation to Central Government employees.

*66. **SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revise the rate of house rent and city compensation being paid to Central Government Employees in the Class A cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when will it be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) to (c). No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, a demand was made by the Staff Side in the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) for upward revision of rates of House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (City) Allowance payable to the Central Government employees. The Council remitted this demand to its Committee for consideration and report. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Direct Flight between Trivandrum and Gulf Countries by Air India

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

(a) when did Air India start direct flights to Trivandrum from Gulf countries;

(b) is it a fact that the number of passengers to Trivandrum in this flight is very much on the decrease; and

(c) if so, what is the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a): 31st January, 1978.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.