

not think that it will be advisable to bring about price control on all these commodities.

श्री आर० एन० राकेश : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि जिन्दगी को कायम रखने की रोज़-मर्री की जितनी चीजें हैं, उन सब के भावों के बारे में तो वह फेल हुए हैं, सारी चीजों के भाव बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, उनको सस्ता रखने में वह नाकामयाब हुए हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने खुद जिन्दगी को अभूत पूर्व सस्ता कर दिया है। इस सस्ताई के लिए मैं उनको बधाई देता हूँ। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय महसूस करते हैं कि जिन चीजों पर उन्होंने कंट्रोल रखा है, उस कंट्रोल को कंट्रोल करने में वह नाकामयाब हैं और इसलिए वह क्या उनको डीकंट्रोल करने पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, this point that the Government has failed to control essential commodities has been raised by the Hon. Members outside in the election and the people have given their verdict. They have not accepted it. Now, I do not want to say anything more than this. About the price rise we have debated outside and we are not going to have it again in this place because none of us are voters to the other parties. We are bound to vote for ourselves.

Therefore, the question is not whether the Government has failed or not; the Government does not believe in de-control of everything; nor does it believe in control of everything. It has a pragmatic policy under which it will control only such of those things which it considers necessary for the benefit of the weaker sections of society and it will not do anything which will go adverse to their interests.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक सवाल पूछने का तो मेरा भी जी चाहता था। बैठक 393 श्री संफुदीन चौधरी।

Use of Calcutta Airport by Foreign Airways for East-Bound Air Services.

*393. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign airways wanted to use Calcutta Airport facilities for their east bound air service in the recent past ; and

(b) if so details of the such proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) & (b). SAS the designated airline of Norway Sweden and Denmark had recently made a request for traffic rights between Calcutta and Singapore. The airline is entitled to operate via Calcutta on the following route :

Scandinavia-Frankfurt-Zurich Athens-Tehran-Karachi-Calcutta,Bangkok-Manila-Tokyo. Since Singapore is not a point specified in the route schedule the request to exercise traffic right between Calcutta and Singapore was not agreed to. SAS was however permitted to operate to Singapore via Calcutta without exercising traffic rights between Calcutta and Singapore.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY: Sir, from the reply here it is seen that S.A.S. wanted a new route between Calcutta and Singapore and, I was told that other airways such as Dutch KLM also wanted to operate from Calcutta. Sir, I would like to know whether any other airlines wants to operate from Calcutta. Further, why was SAS not given permission to operate on this particular

route ? It is a new route which they wanted to operate.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, there are eighteen airlines, which have traffic rights at Calcutta. Out of them seven are operating. The reason for not giving the traffic right to SAS to operate from Calcutta to Singapore is that it is not consistent with the agreement that has been arrived at between the two countries. Secondly, if we permit SAS to carry traffic from Calcutta the traffic of Air India will be adversely affected.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY: Sir, from the answer it becomes clear that in the interest of Air India traffic we are not permitting the foreign airways. It is appreciated. But what is the picture regarding Air India's operation from Calcutta. Sir, the share of the revenue that they earn from Calcutta is 2.3%. Why this is so ? They say they are not inspired to operate from Calcutta. The problems they say are Traffic potential maintenance, equipment etc. They also feel that Calcutta has no tourist attraction. Sir, I want that the other airports must be developed but I want to know whether Government will take care to develop Calcutta.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, as a matter of fact Calcutta is one of our biggest airports. Over and above that measures have been taken to develop Calcutta further for increasing traffic. So far as Air India traffic from Calcutta is concerned the traffic is not as adequate as would enable it to operate from Calcutta and, therefore, whatever traffic Air India can have from Calcutta that is being carried from other airports.

SHRI SONJOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Calcutta was one of the most important airports but in view of the fact that there are too many strikes and

bandhs in Calcutta and West Bengal the international passengers suffer and, Sir, many of these strikes and bandhs are Government-sponsored. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether before they start an international airlines from Calcutta they will make sure that the West Bengal Government does not sponsor bandhs ?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, there, is no doubt that Calcutta is a very important airport so far as we are concerned but, Sir, there have been some trouble at times. But, Sir, the discontinuance of a service from Calcutta cannot be done only on that ground. As I have said earlier the traffic position of Calcutta is such that Air India is not operating at the moment. We will be surveying whether the traffic position is such that Air India should operate. At present the traffic that goes from Calcutta to other places is being carried from other airports.

Coking Coal Crisis in Steel Plants due to Non-availability of Railway Wagons

*394 **SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:**
SHRI R. P. DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of requisite railway wagons, the steel plants are facing coking coal crisis most of the time ;

(b) If so, whether the Steel Ministry have pursued the matter properly with the Railway Ministry ;

(c) if so, the result thereof ; and

(d) steps taken by Government to avert such coking coal crisis in future ?