

### Loss Suffered by I.A.

\*290. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has suffered a loss of Rs. 3 crores during 1979-80; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the future prospects and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Indian Airlines has estimated an approximate loss of Rs. 2.50 crores during the year 1979-80.

(b) Indian Airlines has taken various steps to improve the performance which *inter alia* include on-time performance, optimum utilization of aircraft, periodical checks and maintenance and better facilities to passengers etc. To compensate for the increase in the Aviation Fuel price, Government approval has been conveyed to the Indian Airlines for the levy of fuel surcharge/increase in the dollar fares on International Airlines tickets for Indian Airlines sector at the following rates:—

#### Sales within India (Domestic Fares)

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Sector fares upto<br>Rs. 350  | 25% of the<br>fare |
| (b) Sector fares above<br>Rs. 350 | 20% of the<br>fare |

#### Sale Abroad (Dollar Fares)

In regard to International Airlines tickets for Indian Airlines sector—25% uniform increase on dollar fares.

SHRI N. E. HORO: While replying to the second part of the question the Minister has not very clearly said how Government propose to make good the loss of Rs. 2.5 crores and any loss that may accrue in future. So, besides

collecting the surcharge from the passengers, what are the specific measures he is going to take towards making good the loss?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): It has been explained that we were incurring a loss. In 1979-80 the estimated loss was Rs. 2.5 crores, but after the recent adjustment of the fares by levy of surcharge, the position will be that Indian Airlines will have an estimated net profit of Rs. 10 crores during 1980-81.

SHRI A. E. T. BARROW: Has the Gujarat High Court issued a stay order against the enhancement of the fares?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: If the Gujarat High Court has issued a stay order, we have to contest it, go in appeal.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is most surprising that whereas ten years ago Indian Airlines used to make a profit, today, with all the new planes that Indian Airlines has acquired including the Airbus and Boeing 737 which are tremendous money-spinners, we are told that in the year that has just ended there is a loss. This, of course, can be gone into on some other occasion, but I would like to ask the Minister specifically whether he is taking steps to ensure that there is optimum co-ordination between Air India and Indian Airlines in their services. One of the things that the hon. House is aware of is that Air India also functions as a domestic link, and there has been the constant problem of co-ordination between them, as a result of which the airlines run into losses. So, will the Minister be kind enough to tell us, now that the Boards of the two Corporations have become totally different, what steps he has taken to ensure that there is proper co-ordination between Air India and Indian Airlines, so that at least unnecessary losses to the public exchequer are obviated?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: First of all, I would like to say that this loss in

revenue due to lack of co-ordination and lack of utilisation of capacity was during the time of the previous Government. When I say previous Government, it is the Janata Party Government, not the Government in which Dr. Karan Singh was a Minister.

So far as the steps taken for maintaining proper co-ordination between the two airlines are concerned, every kind of step has been taken, and if detailed information regarding this is required, I can furnish the information. \* 4 ]

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** The country has got a special commitment towards the inaccessible and remote areas like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Air travel is a necessity for them. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister specifically whether he would like to exempt the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (service to Port Blair) from the increase in fares.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** I cannot make any promise at the moment.

**SHRI R. R. BHOLE:** Has the Government explored the possibility of eliminating these losses by any other method besides increasing the fares? Has the Government done anything for this purpose?

**MR. SPEAKER.** He has already enumerated them.

**Sound and Light Programme at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad**

\*291. **SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Sound and Light Programme on the Life of Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, has been discontinued;

(b) the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there has been any demand from the public for continuation of this show;

(d) whether Government have considered the demand; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR):** (a) to (e). The Sound and Light show at Sabarmati Ashram which has been very popular and for which there is persistent demand has been temporarily suspended since 12th March, 1979. Opinion had been expressed from different quarters in regard to the poor quality of Gandhiji's imitated voice; besides a number of other suggestions had also been received from the members of the public and some close associates of Gandhiji for improving the quality of the production. Accordingly, the Sound and Light show is being revised and edited under the direction of Shri B. V. Karanth. The show is expected to be resumed by September, 1980.

**श्रीमती प्रमिला दण्डवते:** क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बता सकते हैं कि गांधी जी की आवाज दुरुस्त करने में इतना समय क्यों लगा और दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि क्या 2 अक्टूबर 1980 को यह प्रोग्राम निश्चित रूप से साबरमती आश्रम में दिखलाया जायगा?

**नांदहन और परिवहन तथा पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा):** अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस काम को बन्द तो कराया था भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री श्री मोरार जी देसाई ने और इतना समय जो लगा तो चूंकि उस आवाज के सम्बन्ध में यह शक जाहिर किया गया था कि वह ठीक गांधी जी की आवाज से नहीं मिलती है इसलिए हम अभी उस की खोज कर रहे थे। अब हम लोगों ने यह कहा कि सितम्बर तक हम उस काम को आरम्भ कर देंगे।

**श्रीमती प्रमिला दण्डवते:** मेरा दूसरा सवाल है कि महात्मा गांधी एक ही गांधी हमारे देश में ऐसे हो गए हैं कि जिन्होंने इस देश की जनता को निर्भय बना दिया, हमें परवशता से मुक्ति दिला दी, अपने परिवार के बारे में सोचा नहीं, अपने बच्चों को सत्ता में रखने को सोचा नहीं, ऐसे महात्मा गांधी हमारे देश के बच्चों के