

and wife, to accommodate them in the same place as far as possible subject to the exigencies of the service requirements. This is being observed not only in civil administration but also in Defence-administration. But there are some greater exigencies in Defence administration than in civil administration. Sometimes, it is not possible to accommodate the transfer in such a way as to enable them to live together. But the policy is to try to accommodate them as far as possible.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Can he accommodate one person for whom I have been recommending for five years, for the re-union of the family ?

**Vayudoot Service from Bhubaneswar to
Jypore, Rourkela and Jharsuguda**

*461. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vayudoot Service has linked Rourkela with Calcutta, Ranchi and Patna ;

(b) if so, whether State Government of Orissa has approached the Central Government for extension of this service to the routes Bhubaneswar-Jypore, Bhubaneswar-Rourkela and Bhubaneswar-Jharsuguda ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM
KHAN) :** (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Vayudoot operates presently a thrice-weekly service on the Calcutta-Jamshedpur - Rourkela - Ranchi route. Patna, which was earlier included in this route, was subsequently dropped due to poor load factor.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Provision of Vayudoot services to these stations would be considered for inclusion in the future plans

of Vayudoot, subject to traffic demand, the economic viability of the operations and the availability of the requisite infrastructural facilities.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : I have gone through the statement of the Hon. Minister. The Minister for Civil Aviation has committed in this House to the strengthening of Vayudoot Service and to see that it would Link important cities and centres of the State not presently connected by Air India and Indian Airlines.

I congratulate the Hon. Minister for having placed Rourkela on the Vayudoot map.

The traffic demand has increased, with the introduction of Vayudoot Service between Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Rourkela and Ranchi route. But Vayudoot presently operates thrice weekly service on this route. Rourkela being a steel city, the traffic load will further increase.

In view of this, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether Vayudoot Service will be operated daily between Calcutta and Rourkela and, if so, when will the necessary steps be taken in this regard?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : We will examine this position and if justified by the volume of traffic, certainly the services will be provided.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : With the commencement of the world's largest aluminium complex at Damanjodi in Koraput district of Orissa and the aluminium smelter at Talcher Dhenkanal district of Orissa, there are infrastructural facilities and there is also increasing demand of Vayudoot Service between Rourkela and Jeypur as talcher is nearer to Rourkela and Jeypur is nearer to Damanjodi.

In view of this increasing traffic demand between these two industrial complexes, will the Hon. Minister considered the operation of Vayudoot Service between Rourkela and Jeypore via Bhubaneswar, the State capital of Orissa, at an early date and, if so, whether it would be started during the current financial year and, if not, when?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : The suggestion of the Hon. Member will be taken into consideration and we will try to conduct a survey of the possibilities of the traffic offering and in the light of the results of the traffic survey, we will decide about the expansion.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : The Hon. Member has said that the traffic demand is there and the infrastructural facilities are there for the air service between Bhubaneswar and Jeypur.

I learnt that the Minister of Civil Aviation had approached the State Government of Orissa for waiving of sales tax on aviation fuel used by the aircraft of Vavudoot and it is understood that the State Government have agreed to do so.

In that case, I would like to know why the request of the State Government to link up Bhubaneswar-Dharsuguda-Jeypur will not be taken up.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : We have approached all the State Governments requesting them to waive or exempt aviation fuel from the sales tax of the State Government. But it does not mean that once the State Government has given its consent, then we have immediately to establish the service without looking into the viability and other aspects.

Exemption of Chimney from Excise Duty

*462. **SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the excise exemption granted to thermos flasks, scientific glass-ware, pressure cookers and electric bulbs, etc. is enjoyed mostly by the Urban rich ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor rural population do not enjoy any such concession of excise duty even on chimney which is the main source of light, because of the criterion of turn-over ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to remove the criterion of annual turn-over

to exempt chimneys from excise duty and thus give relief to poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) to (c) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) It is not correct to say that the exemptions referred to in part (a) of the Question are enjoyed mostly by the urban rich. Exemptions from central excise duties are granted keeping in view a variety of considerations. One of the important considerations is that the small-scale sector should get a definite advantage over the organized sector.

Glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns produced in the small scale sector are eligible for the exemption under the general scheme of exemption for small-scale units. Removal of the criterion of annual turn-over stipulated in the general scheme of exemption would not be in the interest of genuine small-scale units manufacturing chimneys, as in that case the small-scale units will be losing the existing advantage.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : I would like to know whether there is total exemption of excise duty on thermos flask, pressure cooker and electric bulbs and, if so, why the same concession of excise duty is not given to glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns.

Is it a fact that some units manufacturing glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns are closing down for lack of financial viability ? Has the Hon. Minister received any representation from manufacturers in this regard and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government ?

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO : These concessions are given to the small scale units which are manufacturing these articles. Actually chimneys about which the hon. Member has mentioned are