

12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
FAILURE OF I.A.C. TO PROVIDE ACCOM-  
MODATION TO PRESIDENT'S PHYSICIANS**

**Shri A. M. Tariq** (Jammu and Kashmir): Under Rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Transport and Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported failure of the Indian Airlines Corporation to provide accommodation for the personal physicians to the President by their Patna-Delhi flight on the 20th July, 1961."

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** I am grateful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on the alleged failure of the Indian Airlines Corporation to provide accommodation on their service from Patna to Delhi on July 20, 1961 to Dr. T. N. Banerjee and Dr. Raghunath Saran.

The Indian Airlines Corporation have reported that Dr. Saran called at their booking office at Patna at about 10.00 hrs. on 20th July 1961 and asked for two seats for Dr. Banerjee and himself on their flight No. 412 leaving Patna for Delhi. While asking for two seats for Delhi, Dr. Saran is reported to have informed the Traffic Assistant of the Indian Airlines Corporation at Patna that he had received a telephone message from Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi on the morning of the 20th requesting him and Dr. Banerji to proceed to Delhi to attend on the President who had fallen ill. The Traffic Assistant at the counter informed Dr. Saran that one seat could be offered on a firm basis straightaway and that as regards the other position could be confirmed after an hour or so. After about 45 minutes Dr. Saran was informed that a second seat may be available on a 'chance'

basis. Thereupon Dr. Saran is reported to have remarked that if two seats were not available on a definite basis, he would prefer to go by train, which was available at 13.00 hrs. as against 13.40 hrs. which was the departure time of the plane. I may add that subsequent enquiries have confirmed that at the time Dr. Saran approached the Indian Airlines Corporation booking office at Patna only one seat was available ex-Patna. Apparently this urgent need for two seats for the two doctors on the flight was not made known to anyone else in the Corporation's Patna office other than the Traffic Assistant at the counter.

If the officer-in-charge of the station had known of Dr. Saran's enquiry for two seats or of the nature of urgency of Dr. Saran's visit to Delhi, I am sure he might have managed to accommodate them by asking Banaras, the next station of call to release one seat, or by persuading some other passenger to stand down or, if need be, by off-loading some freight.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** May I know what is the quota fixed for Patna people to come to Delhi and may I know if any passenger who had booked from Patna to Delhi was requested by the I.A.C. to give a change to the doctors of the President and, if so, who were the passengers who had booked from Patna to Delhi?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** There were five seats from Patna to Delhi and another two seats held for the Indian Embassy, Kathmandu, on 48 hours' release basis. Patna to Lucknow—2 seats. As a matter of fact, as far as it has come to my notice, no passenger was asked to vacate the seat for the doctors concerned.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** My question has not been fully replied to, Sir.-

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I have replied to it fully, and I have said nobody was asked to vacate the seat.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram):** Is it true that there were five to six

seats vacant at the time when Dr. Saran approached the Patna booking office and, if so, why the booking office clerk did not intimate the station officer there to provide seats to the doctors?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** As far as I have known—and I have enquired fully—there was no seat available at that time.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** May I know why the traffic assistant could not get into touch with the gentleman in charge of the Patna office on his own and why did he want that others should have got into touch with him? Was he not such a responsible officer that he should have done it himself?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** It was all in a hurry. No doubt he thought he could provide a seat if he could get one. He found in the end that he could not provide them.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether the Patna booking office is not usually aware of the fact that so many seats are going vacant in the plane?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I have already told the hon. Member that there were no seats vacant at that time.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat):** What exactly is the form of the enquiry that has been undertaken to find out exactly how this whole affair was handled? Is it only verbal or is anything written down on paper?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** The hon. Member will repeat the question, and I would then be able to hear it better.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The question is, what is the manner of the enquiry. The hon. Minister says that nobody was requested to vacate and that this particular assistant was the only one who knew about it. Is it an enquiry which is based only on verbal information, or is there anything written down?

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**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** As a matter of fact, the only question asked of the assistant was whether two seats were available, and the person was not told of the urgency. All that he did was, he said that at once one seat was available and the other one would be provided. (*Interruption*).

**Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun):** Shall I take it that the President's illness was not a case of urgency, because the hon. Minister said that the person was not told of the urgency?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister said that it was not disclosed to the assistant.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** What I said was that the traffic assistant was not told of the urgency of the President's illness. What he was asked was whether there were seats available for the two doctors.

**Shri Tyagi:** It was just now stated by the hon. Minister that the doctors had told the assistant that they had received a telephonic message from Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have allowed so many questions on the Calling Attention Notice. Perhaps there was not so much need for that. Now that we have discussed it, I think we should not pursue the matter further.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta—Central):** Of course, questions are not permitted or need not be permitted further after you have allowed a certain number of questions. But one clarification is necessary after the Minister has pointed out one thing.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How can all that be taken up now?

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Since it stands to reason that when seats were required by two gentlemen for a very serious purpose, they should naturally divulge it to the authorities. When such an emergency had arisen, how can it be that the Minister concerned seems to take it on trust that the purpose of the visit was not known to

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

be to look after the President who was seriously ill? (Interruptions).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Is it then the desire that the Minister should carry on further investigations and report to the House? That is another matter.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I am already doing it. I need not be told.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** As many hon. Members seem concerned over it, I would request the hon. Minister to go into it in greater detail and report to the House what the actual facts are.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** My question was not fully replied, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have asked the hon. Minister to go further into the details of this question and then report to the House. We will have an opportunity then.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** I want to put only one question; I am not concerned with the further report as such. My point is, who were the passengers who had booked from Patna. Then, for the information of this House, may I also know whether the hon. Minister has seen the statement issued by one of the doctors and, if so, whether any contribution has been issued in regard to that statement by the authorities of the Indian Airlines Corporation?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let him go and study that statement and enquire from the doctor himself, and then he can report.

12.08 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES, PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements showing

the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Second Lok Sabha:

1. Supplementary Statement No. III—Thirteenth Session, 1961. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 108].
2. Supplementary Statement No. VI—Twelfth Session, 1960. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 109].
3. Supplementary Statement No. X—Eleventh Session, 1960. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 110].
4. Supplementary Statement No. XV—Tenth Session, 1960. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 111].
5. Supplementary Statement No. XVI—Ninth Session, 1959. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 112].
6. Supplementary Statement No. XIX—Eighth Session, 1959. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 113].

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS OF DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmakar):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Annual Report on the activities of Delhi Development Authority for the year 1959-60 under section 26 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.
- (ii) Certified Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority for the year 1957-58 together with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 25 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3077/61].