

that ultimately they were willing to part with their shares to Government for Rs. 85 and Rs. 95 only ?

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** It is a cock and bull story.

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE :** Considerable time passed between that offer and this transaction. When they realised they were not in a position to succeed in their endeavour to take over this company and we stood firm that we will take it over, they gave away the shares.

*Amenities to Indian P. O. Ws. in Pakistan*

\*88. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :**

**SHRI VEKARIA :**

Will the **MINISTER OF DEFENCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian P. O. Ws. in Pakistan are as comfortable as the Pak P. O. Ws. in India ;

(b) whether the Government have made any enquiry in this regard ; and

(c) if so, with what results ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) to (c). According to the reports received from the International Committee of Red Cross, the Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan are being treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war. Several enquiries were made by Government in response to which the above has been confirmed by the International Committee of Red Cross.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** May I know whether the relations of the Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan are getting any communications from those prisoners?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** Yes, Sir. The mail received from the Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan a regularly delivered to their relations in India. Similarly, mails of the Pakistani prisoners of war in India are also transmitted to Pakistan.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** क्या यह सच है कि प्रायः इंडिया रेडियों को हमारे पास पाकिस्तानी युद्ध-बन्दी हैं उनके सन्देश पाकिस्तान में उनके घर वालों को प्रसारित कर रहा है और यह बना रहा है कि वे यहाँ ठीक तरह से रखे गये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरह के प्रसारण पाकिस्तान रेडियों से भी हो रहे हैं ?

**श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल :** इसके बारे में हम लोगों ने पता लगाया था। यह बताया गया है कि यहाँ पाकिस्तान रेडियों से भी प्रसारण होते हैं यहाँ उन्हें यह सन्देश दिये जाते हैं। लेकिन जिस प्रकार का प्रसारण हम करते हैं सन्देशों का उस प्रकार का प्रसारण वे करते हैं या नहीं इसके बारे में सूचना नहीं है। सूचना एकत्र करके सभा पटल पर मैं रख दूँगा।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** नहीं कर रहे हैं।

**श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल :** पता लगा लूँगा।

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** May I know whether any Indian army personnel who were taken prisoners before the December war from the border areas are still in custody of Pakistan? If so, have the government taken any steps to see that they are also treated on par with the prisoners of war?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** I am not really sure whether there were any army personnel who were taken prisoners by Pakistan before it launched the aggression on 3rd December. But in case there are, I am quite sure they would be treated as prisoners of war along with the rest of the prisoners who were taken prisoners at the time of the aggression.

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Let the Minister confirm his facts because I know he is wrong.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** There are many Indian prisoners of war who are ailing. What arrangements have been made to see that they are sent back to this country?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** As the hon. House knows, those prisoners who are not well or seriously sick are exchanged through the good offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This position is constantly under review. According to the precedents, sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war are exchanged. But according to our present information there is no such prisoner eligible for repatriation.

**SHRI D. BASUMATARI :** Apart from the information received from the international agencies, have they verified them from the prisoners of war who have been repatriated from Pakistan?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** Yes, Sir. We have ascertained the position from those prisoners who were repatriated from Pakistan. By and large, they have corroborated the version given by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

#### Setting up of a Tourism Board

\*89. **SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :**

**SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Tourism Board ; and

(b) If so, what will be its main functions?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH).**

(a) A National Tourism Board under my Chairmanship was constituted on 25th May, 1972.

(b) The main functions of the Board will be to advise the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation on matters relating to the improvement of the tourism infrastructure in all its aspects, and to suggest ways to coordinate tourism schemes and activities in the public and private sectors.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :** May I know how many members are officials and how many non-officials?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Apart from me as Chairman, my colleague, the Minister of State is the Vice-Chairman. Then there are 9 official members and 5 non-official members.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :** Who are the officials and who are the non-official members?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Sir, should I read out all the names? The idea of the National Tourism Board is really to do two things? One is to coordinate the activities of the various Government of India agencies relating to tourism. So, we have the Secretary of my Ministry, the Financial Advisor, the Chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation, the member of the Railway Board concerned with tourism, AirIndia, Indian Airlines, the Director-General of Archaeology, because archaeology is very closely linked with tourism, the Chairman of the Inter-State Transport Commission to deal with tourism and, of course, the Director-General of Tourism.

So, all the major agencies in the Government of India connected with tourism and its affiliated activities, its ancillary activities, are included.