

श्री श्रीकिशन बोदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप कितना कर्जों ले चुके हैं, कितना ब्याज चुकाना है और कितना चुका दिया है।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I have answered many questions in the form of answers to Starred Questions and Unstarred Questions. If he refers to some of those documents, he can get the information. I have not got the information now with me. As far as the present question is concerned, it is about debt relief—what debt we are supposed to pay including interest and capital in the coming two years. I gave the figures about that. It comes to nearly 1,130 million dollars.

Proposal to Arrange Air India International flight from Calcutta to London and Paris

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*344. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :**
**SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-
JHUNWALA :**

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

(a) whether Government have under consideration a new proposal to arrange Air-India International flight from Calcutta to London and Paris ; and

(b) if so, when it will be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Effective November 3, 1972, Air India will introduce a new flight which will originate in Calcutta and terminate at London. The routing of the flight will be :—

West bound : Calcutta—Bombay—Cairo—Geneva—Paris—London.

East bound : London—Geneva—Rome—Cairo—Delhi—Calcutta.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am very much pleased to get this answer from the hon. Minister. It was announced many times before by the Ministry that the Civil Aviation Department will take the best help possible from the international air ter-

minal building for the Calcutta airport also. It is unfortunate that in the last two years most of the international air traffic has totally collapsed in respect of the operations from the Calcutta airport for many reasons. I would like to know from the Minister whether he will take best efforts to utilise the Calcutta airport for the effective landing of Jumbos so that more international air traffic can operate through Air India and other airlines ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : The international air services are operated under bilateral agreements. It is true that a number of foreign airlines have pulled out of the Calcutta airport much to our distress. As far as the Ministry is concerned, we are trying our best to utilise the international air terminal building. One of the suggestions was that it might be utilised for domestic jet traffic also. I must say that that was a suggestion which commended itself to me, because there was a lot of spare capacity, but that would involve quite a heavy additional expenditure on the part of the Indian Airlines.

As far as jumbo is concerned, the jumbos are at present operating on the west-bound route. When they start operating to Tokyo, certainly Calcutta will also at that stage be covered by the jumbos.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY : Would the hon. Minister kindly give us an assurance that when these flights start operating from London to Calcutta, the passengers are not asked to disembark at Bombay, which I personally have experienced on a number of occasions in the past ? Would he kindly give that assurance ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : The whole point of having this service originating and terminating in Calcutta means that the passengers will certainly not be asked to disembark at Bombay.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the new international airport which has been constructed at Dum Dum looks like a haunted house in the absence of any passengers there ? In view of the fact that a large amount has been spent there to construct this airport, may I know whether the number of international flights is increased to see that

this money is properly utilised and the terminal also utilised.

DR. KARAN SINGH : As I said, it is not possible for us unilaterally to increase the international flights on other airlines because they function according to their own commercial judgement. But as far as Air India is concerned, this point was raised that there was no flight originating at Calcutta, and for this very purpose, we have now introduced this new flight which will also be marginal, and I hope that traffic will pick up from that.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : While appreciating the hon. Minister's statement that they will operate the service from 3rd November, may I know from him how many flights there will be both to the west-bound and to the east-bound of Calcutta.

DR. KARAN SINGH : At present, a total of 110 international scheduled flights operate every week to and from Calcutta. That includes a large number of foreign flights as well as international flights operated by Air India and Indian Airlines.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : The Question relates to the Minister of Civil Aviation and also to the Dum Dum Airport. May I know whether it is a fact that for sometime past cancellation of flights of IAC has become a regular feature which is causing serious inconvenience to the passengers, specially at night...

MR. SPEAKER : Wait for another Questions.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : This is regarding Dum Dum Airport. It has come in the press. The Minister can easily reply to that. I am not asking any irrelevant question. This has become a regular feature and, at night, the passengers are put to a lot of difficulties ..

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't argue. If you are there to judge the relevancy of the question, I have no business to sit here. The House need not have the Speaker if the Members are going to judge the relevancy of the question themselves. I am so sorry. I am not allowing it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : I am making a humble submission. Kindly

allow me to get a clarification. Everybody is afraid to go to the Dum Dum airport...

MR. SPEAKER : There is another Question. Let him wait. He has no patience to listen to me.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : I would request the hon. Minister to tell us when the flight from Calcutta to Tokyo will start.

DR. KARAN SINGH : We already have flights from Calcutta to Tokyo by 707. They go every week. About Jumbo jets, it has not been decided. Probably, it will be sometime in 1974.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : Has any inquiry been undertaken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to find out what lies behind the disinclination of International airlines to use Calcutta airport? The Minister has referred to the commercial judgment. Is there any reason to believe that there is collusion of travel agencies and also of international airlines to organise these things to avoid Calcutta or to overfly Calcutta?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I do not think there is any such collusion because it is in the interest of travel agents that more and more people should fly and they get their commission. Of course, the reasons are many. Their commercial judgement, I feel, is based on the fact that for 3-4 years, the political conditions in West Bengal were very disturbed, I think, that has had an effect upon the thinking of foreign airlines. But I would not like to speak for them. I am just, as the hon. member asked the question, venturing a guess as one of the factors which may have been responsible.

बिहार को वित्तीय सहायता

*345. श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने मांग की है कि पांचवीं योजना के लिए राज्यों को सहायता देने के समय छठे वित्त आयोग को राज्यों की आर्थिक स्थिति पर विचार करना चाहिए और तदनुसार उन्हें वित्तीय सहायता देनी चाहिए; और