

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I am sorry, you have to convince us.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am so happy that the hon. Minister is trying to normalise trade relations with Pakistan. Now a different situation has taken place. I would like to know whether the same trade relations will continue with the newly formed government there or whether they will await General Yahya Khan's orders. According to the newspapers— I do not know how far it is correct ; the hon. Minister knows more than I do—there is a provisional government there. So, I would like to know as to what will be our trade relations with Bangla Desh : whether they will be at the instance of General Yahya Khan or at the instance of the new Military Administrator or at the instance of the head of the provisional government in East Pakistan.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I would like to reiterate that we have never come in the way of trade at Government level or at private level, at any level. Therefore, if at any time, there is any opening for resuming trade, we will welcome that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, I seek your protection. I know, it is an awkward question.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, this question was very embarrassing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : There is a government formed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the people of East Pakistan in Bangla Desh under Major Jia Khan. I want to know whether the same trade relations will continue and they will toe the line of imperialists headed by General Yahya Khan. That is exactly what I want to know. We want our trade relations to be normalised with Bangla Desh.

MR. SPEAKER : Your question refers to the Government of Pakistan. I wonder how any other question is relevant.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The question was dated 16th March.

Ban on Over-flights of Pakistani Civil and Military Planes

*15. **DR. KARNI SINGH :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the handing over of the two skyjackers, who recently skyjacked an Indian Airlines plane to Lahore and later destroyed it, was made an express condition by Government for lifting the ban on the overflights of Pakistani civil and military planes ;

(b) whether India has now agreed to Pakistan's holding an inquiry into the matter and is no more pressing for the return of the two skyjackers ; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the reasons for this vital change in the Government's stand over the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) In view of the rejection by Pakistan of our protest against and destruction of our aircraft, and of our demands, the suspension of over-flights by Pakistani civil and military planes continues. The position can be reconsidered if Pakistan pays compensation for the loss and damage caused to India, takes suitable action against the two hijackers and give assurances for the future.

(b) Pakistan has not asked for our agreement for holding the inquiry, and no question of our agreement therefore arises. We continue to press for action against the hijackers.

(c) Does not arise.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I would like to know if Government will give a categorical assurance to this House that no flights of Pakistan planes will be allowed over India until such time as compensation is paid and the hijackers are returned to India and that our stand will be so strong that we will not falter one way or the other as a result of this trouble that is taking place in Bangla Desh.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have said that already. The trouble that is now taking place in East Pakistan really places even greater responsibility on us to weigh carefully any alteration in the decision that we have already taken. We adhere to the decision that had already been taken and we have no intention to alter that decision.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I would like to know whether, as a result of this hijacking and the steps that the Government has taken to prevent any such recurrence, some of the steps taken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation have reached a stage of harassment of the people of our country who are travelling on airlines. Reports have been brought to my attention that citizens of India travelling by airlines are sometimes asked to explain where they bought their watches or cameras. Do Government have any proposals to prevent such type of harassment and, at the same time, to ensure that hijacking does not take place again ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Maybe, some passengers may have been inconvenienced. But I do not say anybody has been harassed. I would appeal to the travelling public that they should cooperate with the security measures that are being taken to ensure not only their personal safety but also the security of the planes in which they are travelling.

DR. KARNI SINGH : The personal belongings of the persons do not come into question within the country as at regular customs barriers.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There is no question of customs barriers for internal travelling. The security check means that the passengers travelling have to be checked if anybody has got any arms or any other objectionable material.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I am talking about cameras and wrist watches which a person ordinarily carries.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a matter of details. The Minister of Civil Aviation might be able to give more details.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Since this incident took place has there been any attempt at mediation by any foreign country in this matter ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There was not any attempt at mediation. But feelers were thrown by several Governments to the effect that their good offices would be available. We have made our position quite clear that we will like to deal with this matter bilaterally.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Would you kindly give the names of those countries who offered their good offices ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : At present I have not got the names.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is an International Convention prohibiting hijacking and, if so, whether Pakistan is a party to it and may I also know whether the Government have tried to get remedy under that Convention ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There was an Agreement signed by the international community for taking steps to prevent hijacking. I think, Pakistan also has signed that Convention. In this particular case, it is not necessary for us to approach any international authority in this respect. We can deal with it more effectively in a bilateral manner.

श्री भारद्वाज राय : बंगला देश की घटना के बाद पाकिस्तान सरकार की ओर से क्या भारत सरकार को इस बात की प्रार्थना की गई है कि जो प्रतिबन्ध लगाए गए हैं, उनको ढीला कर दिया जाय, यदि हाँ, तो भारत सरकार की ओर से उसका क्या उत्तर दिया गया है ?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : पहले हिस्से का जवाब नहीं है और दूसरा प्रश्न ही पैदा नहीं होता है ।

SHRI C. CHITTIBABU : Will the hon. Minister be able to say what is the amount they have asked as compensation from Pakistan ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We have not spelt out the exact amount. We have asked them to accept in principle that they accept the responsibility to compensate us for the loss.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : It has been reported in a section of the press that the actual plane is intact in Pakistan and that it was a dummy plane which was destroyed. Will the hon. Minister use his intelligence or intelligence service to find out about the whole truth ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am hearing it for the first time. If the hon. Member could use his intelligence, I will be grateful.

MR. SPEAKER : This is the first time during my tenure as Speaker that I have reached the end of the list. On the very first day, we have created a record.

Now, I will have another round to call absent Members.

Air Pollution in Bombay

*6. **SHRI RAJA KULKARNI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government have taken to prevent the people of Bombay (North) city from the danger of air pollution over the northern part of the city where a number of petrolum, petro chemical and chemical process factories are located ; and

(b) the reasons for the creation of the morbid and obnoxious gases and their offensive smell prevailing in the atmosphere over northern part of the Bombay city at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra,

the problem of air pollution being caused by the Plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India which is located in the northern part of the city of Bombay was studied by the Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and the authorities of the Plant are taking necessary steps to mitigate the nuisance as per recommendations of the Institute. The Bombay Municipal Corporation has also asked the Institute to study the air pollution problem of Greater Bombay and to suggest remedial measures so that action could be taken against the factories causing such nuisance.

The Government of India has also set up an Export Committee to study the general problem of air pollution in the country and to suggest ways and means, including a draft legislation, to control the same. The Committee is expected to submit the draft legislation to the Government shortly.

(b) As a result of the increased industrial activity and rapid urbanisation, toxic and injurious gases and other pollutants are discharged through industrial emissions and certain human activities connected with traffic, heating, etc., which disturb the wholesomeness of air.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : The supplementary that arises out of the answer is that the Government have not taken adequate steps for appointing some kind of a permanent agency to prevent these dangers as air pollution in all our industrial cities. The question is: in Bombay recently on the 16th there was air pollution. Will the Minister tell us as to what steps, either by appointing an investigating committee or by appointing a permanent agency, he is going to take for prevention of air pollution ? If such agencies are existing in other countries which are industrially advanced.

May I know whether this Government is also thinking about such steps ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : The Government is already aware of air pollution not only in Bombay but also in other big industrial cities of India. The Government have already appointed a Committee to look into the matter and to report.