

(a) whether the National Airports Authority proposes to take up cargo handling at the civil airports in the country to generate additional revenue for the development of airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to start the cargo handling service at Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Ahmedabad airports in the beginning; and

(d) if so, what are the other areas that will be covered afterwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Since the proposal is at a preliminary stage, the details have not yet been decided.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the State capitals whose Civil airports have no cargo handling facilities will become a heavy loss to the Airport Authority. In this connection, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether they are going to take up the cargo handling facilities in Civil Airports; if not what is the reason.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: One of the things laid down in the National Airport Authority Act is the establishment of warehouses and cargo complexes. It is very much in the mind and they are working on it. Some places...

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, nobody should come in the House wearing a badge. He should not wear it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am wearing it on behalf of Shri Voraji.

MR. SPEAKER: You put it in your pocket.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Some other locations have been located. We had a survey. In Trivandrum we have the Kerala State Industrial Enterprise, which is handling that. In Ahmedabad, the Gujarat State

Export Corporation is doing it. In Varanasi, the U.P. State Corporation is doing it. The Indian Airlines is doing at Hyderabad. At all the International airports, the International Airport Authority is handling except Bombay where right from its inception the Air India was handling on behalf of International Airport Authority. They have plans; they are looking for the finance.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU: My second question will be of personal interest. Sir, as far as you know, Bangalore is an internationally famous tourists centre and every day thousands of foreign visitors are visiting Bangalore. Formerly, there were two flights which were going from Delhi to Bangalore and Bangalore to Delhi. Now, it has been reduced to one. I do not know, Sir, why the Airline people in this connection have taken a step-motherly attitude towards Bangalore in comparison to other State capitals. Sir, every day 100 to 150 persons are there on the waiting list and they are unable to go to Bangalore. They have to wait at least for 3 to 4 days. In this connection, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether he would like to increase the number of flight.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The question relates to handling of cargo, not passengers.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU: It is connected with passengers. (*Interruptions*)

Creation of National Ports Authority

+
*976. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA:
DR. B.L. SHAILESH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to create a National Ports Authority, as a part of decentralisation policy, under whom all the eleven major ports will be brought;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its likely set up, financial and administrative powers and capital base; and

(c) whether the Authority will also be entrusted with the creation of a specialised agency for port operations and development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: The answer of the Hon. Minister is rather disappointing. Sir, as you know, nowadays it is the day of holding companies. Different small companies are being joined together to have a large company so that Government policy can be implemented more easily. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government thinks that if a National Ports Authority comprising of 11 major ports in India is made, it would be easier for the Government to control the policy regarding the ports throughout the country?

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir, the proposal to create a National Port Authority is under consideration of this Ministry. For this purpose we have prepared a note and that has been circulated to various ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Public Enterprises, Department of Administrative Reforms, Ministry of Commerce and Planning Commission and their comments have been received. Presently, we have been waiting for the comments from the Ministry of Law and Justice. As soon as the reply is received from the Ministry, we will actively consider this proposal.

USA grant to help immunisation of infants and mothers

*977. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant was given to the United Nations International Childrens' Emergency Fund this year by the USA for universal immunisation programme to help immunise infants and mothers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise this amount for desert districts of Rajasthan where people are suffering from severe nutritional deficiency like calorie deficiency. Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Anaemia owing to continuous drought; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. USAID has signed an Agreement with the UNICEF to provide US \$ 25.5 million for India's Universal Immunization Programme. This grant is to be utilised to take care of the components of the Programme like the supply of cold-chain, purchase of vaccines, preparation and supply of Health Education materials and transport. This Programme will be taken up in the entire country to reduce the mortality and morbidity of infants and pregnant women due to the six vaccine preventable diseases.

[Translations]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in desert districts of Rajasthan, particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer which were recently visited by the hon. Minister, are suffering from severe nutritional deficiencies like calorie deficiency, Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Anaemia due to successive drought for five years. In view of the fact that assistance is being provided by the technology mission, UNICEF and Health department, I would like to know also what effective measures have been taken to assist the people and to bring a decline in the disease cases?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, in the context of what the hon. Member has just referred to, I would like to remind him that the issues which were raised during my visit to Barmer and other districts were settled and the demands for folic acid, 'B' complex tablets and holigone tablets have been met. Besides, the assistance required