

to the administrative Ministry to take a decision and the Government of India should come to some conclusion. The Minister himself admitted on the floor of the house that the case of non-scientific technical staff was very, very legitimate. It is a reputed institution. This is leading to demoralisation. Therefore, it would be in the fitness of things if this was settled. The point is not whether it is with the Health Ministry or the Ministry of Finance. It is a question of collective responsibility. Therefore, through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to appeal to the Minister to give some specific assurance since he admits that the case is a legitimate one. Some urgent action should be taken. I would ask of the Government when they would take a decision. There should be a specific deadline, a specific time schedule for applying this one-time cadre review, pending the Pay Commission's recommendations.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, I do assure the hon. Member. He is absolutely right. This has been going on for a very long time now. This morning I took a review meeting and I said, "Let us look into the possibility of one time assessment programme." This is what the hon. Member has suggested. I can only give an assurance at the moment. We are looking into this matter very seriously. Maybe, we can do a one-time assessment promotion just now and then wait for the outcome of the 5th Pay Commission Report. I have already asked the Ministry to find out whether this is possible. I should get an answer within the next 24 or 48 hours and I will keep the hon. Member informed about it. If we can do it, we will certainly go ahead with it.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to specifically direct the Government on this question. We as individual Members are helpless. The Government admits that they are not able to do anything.

I appeal to you, Mr. Chairman. Please direct the Government. Please protect our role as representatives of people.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: I will take it up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that he will take it up.

श्री पूलचन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद के अंदर जैसी दयनीय स्थिति शैड्युल्ड कास्ट और शैड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स के कर्मचारियों की है, पहली बात तो यह है कि जो आरक्षण के पद हैं उनको भरा ही नहीं जाता और जो भर लिए गए हैं उनको पदोन्नत भी नहीं किया जाता। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि संस्थान के अंदर जो शैड्युल्ड कास्ट और शैड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स के रिक्त पद हैं उनको कब तक भर लेंगे और जिन कर्मचारियों को पदोन्नति नहीं दी गई है उनको कब तक पदोन्नति दे दी जाएगी?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: I can only tell the hon. Member, through you, that we have already taken steps to fill up all the vacant posts, whether they are of the general category or whether they are of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes category. The process has already started and we are looking into it so that we can fill up all the vacancies. Regarding promotion, I do not have any specific complaint that someone has been denied promotion because he belonged to a particular community or a particular caste. If there is any specific complaint, I will look into it.

***323. [The Questioner (Shri V. Hanumantharao) was absent. For answer vide col. 32 infra.]**

Expansion of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

***326. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expansion work is proposed for the international airport Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) what is the present position and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of major expansion works being undertaken are as under:—

(1) Extension of main runway by 1148 ft. at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.76 crores which is likely to be completed by 30th June, 1997. With this, the length of the runway shall be 11148 ft. suitable for Boeing 747 type of aircraft.

(2) Extension of apron in front of Terminal I and II at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.91 crores is expected to be completed by the end of 1998. With this, the parking bays will increase from 4 to 7.

(3) Modification of the International Terminal Building at a cost of Rs. 2.02 crores is expected to be completed by 30th June, 1997. With this, the peak hour capacity will increase from 400 passengers at present to 550 passengers.

(4) Construction of new terminal complex on the Chakai canal side is proposed to be taken up after the State Government acquires and hands over the land to Airports Authority of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 326. The Minister of Civil Aviation has written to me that he has to go out of Delhi on urgent business and he asked for my permission to leave. The Minister of Law will reply.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: With your permission I reply to Question No. 326.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: He is like a stepney which can fit into Fiat, Ambassador or anything.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, some years back Trivandrum was declared as

an international airport. It is a very old international airport. But the flights to foreign countries from Trivandrum are very few. It is true that there are a few flights to Gulf countries. But flights to USA and other western countries are very few and the number of passengers from Kerala to these countries are very high and it is increasing daily. At present, these passengers are going to these places from Bombay. But unfortunately, these passengers are getting a bad treatment at Bombay airport. Actually, they were considered as second class citizens there. So I want to know whether the Department has conducted a survey as to the economic feasibility of starting new flights to USA and western countries and why such flights cannot be started immediately? Will the Government take steps to start new flights to USA and other western countries?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, I am distressed to hear that the passengers from Kerala are getting bad treatment in Bombay and that they are treated as second class passengers. Sir, I don't think that this is a very correct situation. All passengers travelling from any part of the country, from any airport in India get the same treatment. If there are any specific complaints about any particular incident, I would request the hon. Member to bring it to the notice of the Government and we will take appropriate action in the matter. As regards the other demands that from Trivandrum we should start flights to USA and other places, let me inform the hon. Member and this august House that the airport in Trivandrum is being expanded, it is being modernised and very soon additional flights will commence from this airport. A number of things are required to be done. We have to extend the runway. Work is likely to be completed by June next year. Similarly, a new terminal is required to be constructed. This requires additional land. The Government of Kerala has promised us that they will acquire this land and

give it over to us. I would also like to request the hon. Member to use his good offices with his Government so that this land could be acquired at the earliest and we could be in a position to provide additional facilities at this airport so that whatever demand, whatever request the hon. Member makes we will be able to provide at that particular place within the shortest time possible.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, he is saying that new flights can be started only after acquiring land for the new terminal.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: At present the problem there is that in the absence of proper terminal it is not possible to start additional flights. First of all, we have to extend the runway. That work is going on.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: That is going on, there is no problem of land for that.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: As soon as that part is completed, your request will be taken into consideration.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, it is read in the papers recently that the hon. Prime Minister has declared that Trivandrum airport is going to be named after late Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. A mere changing of the name of an airport is actually not honouring that great man. It is actually dishonouring him. Sir, will the Government take steps for the immediate completion of the new terminal and will the Government see to it that the naming of the airport be made on the day on which the opening of the new terminal is made and can it be made immediately?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, the late Shri Krishna Menon was a great son of this country. The naming of an airport after this great man only shows the high respect in which he is held by the Government.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Excepting the change in the name, there is nothing... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, is it the airport at Calicut or Trivandrum? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: You are just changing the name of the airport.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, mere naming of an airport after that great leader does not add to the facilities there. Provision of facilities is one thing and naming the airport is another thing. Mr. Nadukkara, please bear with us. A lot of things are required to be done. We must all work together to see that the facilities required are provided there. Your Government, the Kerala Government, basically has to co-operate in acquiring the land. We are told that there are difficulties in acquiring the land. Whatever difficulties are there, let us overcome those difficulties. All of us, the Government of India, the Airports Authority of India, the Kerala Government and, of course, all the elected Members from that area, can contribute to the efforts for solving the problems.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SAUDI ARABIA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make. We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary delegation from Saudi Arabia, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Bin Jubair, Chairman of the Majlis Al Shoura of Saudi Arabia.

On behalf of the Members of this House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a healthy welcome to the Leader and other Members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further

strengthen the friendly bond that exists between India and Saudi Arabia. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Majlis and the friendly people of Saudi Arabia.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

—Contd.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Sir, is it not true that before a decision is taken to start a service to any Western country, like the UK or the USA, one has to examine the possibility of load factor being available from that particular destination? The flights which are operating from Bombay and Delhi have to be combined in many instances in order to fill the aircraft. Is it not true that to start a flight from other destinations, it would be necessary to first ascertain the load factor because you would require a long-haul flight if the load is more?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: I think the hon. Member, being a Member of Air India's Board, is aware of all the requirements. Whatever he has said is absolutely correct. There are a number of factors which are needed to be taken into consideration. First of all, there has to be an arrangement between our country and the country where we are supposed to have the flight. Then, you have to examine the traffic conditions, passenger load and a number of other factors. Only after examination of all these factors that a decision is taken whether we should operate a flight from this country to another country. M. Keswani, you are absolutely correct.

श्री मोहम्मद आज़म खान: सर, कुछ एयर पोर्ट्स देश के ऐसे भी हैं जिन्हें इंटरनेशनल एयर पोर्ट बनाया गया है। उसमें लखनऊ का एयर पोर्ट भी है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि उद्घाटन करने के कितने वर्षों बाद तक वहां से इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट नहीं होती है? ऐसा कोई न कोई ज़ाबता जरूर होगा? लगभग डेढ़ वर्ष हो गया है, उद्घाटन हो गया है। मंत्री जी से पूछता हूँ तो जवाब मिलता है कि फ्लाइट इसलिए कैसिल की जा रही है क्योंकि मुसाफिर नहीं हैं, बिज़नेस नहीं हो पा रहा

है। एक तरफ तो मुसाफिर नहीं हैं, दूसरी तरफ इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट्स की ज्यादाती है। लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट को इंटरनेशनल करते वक़्त मंशा यह थी कि उत्तर प्रदेश के हाजिरों को यहां से उड़ान दी जाएगी ताकि उन्हें दिल्ली तक न जाना पड़े और यही बजह है कि हिन्दुस्तान से हज़ के लिए जाने वाले मुसलमान सेहत के तौर पर बड़े कमजोर होते हैं। जिन्दगी भर मेहनत करने के बाद 60-70 साल की उम्र में पैसा जुटाकर हज़ के लिए जाते हैं। वह सफ़र न कर सकें और उन्हें लखनऊ से उड़ान मिल सके, इसीलिए उसको इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट बनाया गया था। डेढ़ वर्ष के करीब हो गया इस एयरपोर्ट को इंटरनेशनल हुए लेकिन उससे इंटरनेशनल उड़ान अभी तक शुरू नहीं हुई है। आजकल हाज़ी जा रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि इस एयरपोर्ट को जब इंटरनेशनल कर दिया गया है तो क्या हाजिरों को वहां से जाने की सहूलियत दी जायेगी? और अगर नहीं दी जायेगी तो कम से कम यह ज़ाबता तय होना चाहिए कि किसी चीज़ के उद्घाटन के कितने वर्षों के बाद तक उस पर अमल नहीं होगा?

श्री रमाकांत डी० खलप: सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न तिरुवनन्तपुरम एयरपोर्ट के बारे में है और आप लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं। इसलिए मुझे उत्तर देने में थोड़ी दिक्कत आ रही है। फिर भी, मैं यह कहूंगा कि आपका एयरपोर्ट इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट नहीं है, यह एक डोमेस्टिक एयरपोर्ट है, यह लिमिटेड इंटरनेशनल ट्रैफिक को हैंडल कर सकता है। आपने जो बाकी चीज़ें उठाई हैं इनके बारे में मैं आपसे कहूंगा कि कृपया मंत्री जी से मिलिये, हमारे आफिसर्स लोगों से मिलिये।

श्री मोहम्मद आज़म खान: यह सूचना सही नहीं है। वह इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट हो चुका है और गुलाब नबी आज़ाद साहब जाकर उसका उद्घाटन भी कर चुके हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. A separate notice is required. Shri Md. Salim.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, this question relates to the Thiruvananthapuram airport and some Members in this House have suggested that since we are observing late Krishna Menon's birth centenary this year the Calicut airport should be named after late Krishnamenon. The Prime Minister has also announced it. But my point is, since the Thiruvananthapuram airport is the fifth international

airport and in this country there has been a practice of naming international airports after great leaders like we have the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Jawaharlal Nehru International Airport, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, we should name the international airport at Thiruvananthapuram after late Krishna Menon. Will the Minister consider this suggestion or not?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Sir, we will keep in mind the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq.

SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Hon. Chairman, Sir.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does it pertain to the Thiruvananthapuram airport?

SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Yes, Sir. It pertains to the Thiruvananthapuram airport.

श्री शरीफ-उद्-दीन शरीक: आनेबल चेयरमैन साहब, मैं पहले गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया का शुक्रिया अदा करूंगा। पहली बार रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर से हज़िरियों को इस साल मके-मोअज्जम्मा के लिए श्रीनगर से डारेक्ट जिददा के लिए ले जाया जा रहा है। वरना पहले उनको यहां आकर दिल्ली में ही रुकना पड़ता था और तमाम दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ता था। इसलिए मैं इनका शुक्रिया करता हूं और ये शुक्रिया के लिए मुस्तहक भी है। साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी गुज़ारिश करूंगा कि बड़ी देर से हमारा मुतालबा श्रीनगर एअरपोर्ट को इन्टरनेशनल एअरपोर्ट बनवाने का है। इसके बारे में कई बार आश्वासन भी सरकार की तरफ से दिया गया है। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से गुज़ारिश करूंगा कि इस सिलसिले में क्या कोई तजवीज़ इनके ज़ेरे-गौर है?

श्री रमाकांत डी० खलफ़: सभापति जी, इस बारे में मैं यह कहूंगा कि एक सेपरेट नोटिस दिया जाये क्योंकि श्रीनगर एक बहुत बड़ा इम्पोर्टेंट डेस्टीनेशन है। इसके बारे में कोई भी चीज़ कहने के पहले अगर आप हमें नोटिस दे देंगे तो हम आपको पूरी जानकारी दे देंगे। कृपया आप सेपरेट नोटिस दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 327

***327. [The Questioner (Shri Mukesh R. Patel and Shri Sanjay Nirupam) were absent. For answer vide col. 33 infra.]**

MR. CHAIRMAN: So many Members after asking question absent themselves. Now, Question No. 328.

New Branches Opened by Nationalised Banks in Andhra Pradesh

***328. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks have opened any new branches in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the number of such branches;

(c) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks are deliberately reducing activity in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that 10 branches of nationalised banks have been opened in Andhra Pradesh during the period 1st April, 1996 to 28th February, 1997.

Reserve Bank of India have also reported that during the same period, they had approved 24 proposals for opening of new branches in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to some extent I am satisfied with the reply of the hon. Finance Minister. At the same time, one of the reasons for which banks were nationalised was to ensure credit and finance to agricultural and rural sector. Ever since liberalisation, banks have been reducing their activities in rural areas. They seem to be interested in financing industry, trade, export, etc., and core activities like agriculture / economic programmes meant for weaker sections are being ignored. It would be impossible for private sector to undertake these