

is two-fold. One is, there Secretariat may not kindly do such a thing without talking to the Member himself. The P.S. of a Member is totally unable to decide and he gets brow-beaten. My second submission is, as you mentioned in the House, and the hon. Prime Minister is present here, there have been several instances during the last few months when Minister's replies are so grossly inadequate, and many a time, a statement is laid on the Table of the House which every Member in the House does not have before him. Therefore, my submission is that it must be read out and the reply should be full and adequate. You had similarly directed the Minister for Surface Transport. So this may be done. And if you say so, we will keep it for the next first available day as Question No. 1.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will do that.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I need your guidance. I was told just now that the Member had gone to the Ministry and asked for a change. Is that a new practice? After we put the question, we never do that and we never go to the Minister and ask for a change of the question. Is that a practice. Can it be done?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: I have denied it. I totally deny it.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: The very fact that this has been mentioned that a Member had gone to the Minister and requested for a change is the point on which I want to know whether this is the practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you that it should not be the practice; it should not be made into a practice. Shall we now go to the next question? Question No. 142.

#### Implementation of "food for work" programme under JRY

\*142. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food for work programme under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is not being effectively implemented, as States are lifting less foodgrains under the programme; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure effective and adequate implementation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

##### Implementation of 'Food for work Programme' under JRY

In the year 1989-90, when the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was started, distribution of foodgrains as part of the wages to the workers engaged in JRY works was made optional, at the request of the States. Accordingly, 18 States/UTs did not opt for distribution of foodgrains under JRY. Only the remaining States/UTs lifted and supplied foodgrains under JRY. However, in June 1992, the Government of India reviewed the position keeping in view the need to improve the nutritional standards of the workers engaged under JRY & their families and it was decided that distribution of 2 kgs of food-grains per manday generated under JRY be made compulsory. The State Governments/Union Territories could take necessary administrative action only thereafter in 1992-93 for the distribution of foodgrains as part of the wages under JRY. It is expected that the quantity of foodgrains lifted and utilised will increased substantially during the current year.

The Ministry of Rural Development is constantly monitoring the distribution of foodgrains under JRY in the States in coordination with the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Civil Supplies. To ensure that

the foodgrains are distributed as part of wages to the workers engaged under the Yajana, Ministry of Rural Development is also constantly impressing upon the State Government/Union Territories to distribute foodgrains on compulsory basis. In the four National Workshops of the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zila Parishads (ZPs), who are implementing the rural employment programmes at the district levels, held in June-July, 1993, these implementing agencies have been asked to gear up administration to utilise foodgrains under the scheme.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: I don't know what to say. The Minister in his reply has given all the facts excluding an answer to my question. If you look at the question, I have asked: "whether it is a fact that the food for work programme under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is not being effectively implemented, as States are lifting less foodgrains under the programme; and (b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure effective and adequate implementation of this programme?" The Government has answered the second part and not the first part. However, since you have called my name, I will ask my question.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Why is the first part not replied?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: I would like to know from the Minister as to why it has happened.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Why has the first part of the question not been replied? Will the Minister clarify it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask your supplementary and the Minister will reply along with it.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: The Minister has not replied to the first part of my question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to add anything, Mr. Minister? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: This is a clear evidence right now how Ministers avoid giving replies by making a mockery of the Question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Sinha, please ask your question.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, let him first answer the first part of my question.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, I have explained it. The first paragraph of the statement laid on the Table of the House refers to it. I have already given the complete details. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was started in the year 1989-90. The hon. Member had asked...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. Please sit down. We cannot have a conversation like this. Let the Minister reply first. Then, I will allow you.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I have said that distribution of foodgrains as part of the wages under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was made optional in the year 1989-90. Then, even after it was made optional, 18 States/Union Territories did not opt for distribution of foodgrains. Rest of the States had agreed. However, from June, 1992, we have made it mandatory, keeping in view that need to improve the nutritional standards of the working people in the rural areas. It has been made mandatory and we have been giving 2 kg. of foodgrains per

manday. The State Governments/ Union Territories, were able to take necessary administrative action only thereafter. As I said, it was made mandatory only in June, 1992. Then, there was the rainy season. Thereafter, the State Governments took some administrative steps. As a result of this, the lifting in the year 1992-93 was not uniform. In fact, all the data is available. If the hon. Member want the State-wise figures, I can give.

Then, Sir, there are two-three basic things which I would like to mention, in this connection, for the hon. Member to understand. Now, there are three categories of States. There are some States which are regularly lifting. These are: Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal, and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry. Then, there are other States where food is surplus. These are: Punjab, Haryana and West U. P. They are slightly reluctant. They have certain difficulties in regard to distribution of foodgrains and, therefore, they have not been lifting so far much. Even these States have started lifting during the current year. Then, in the case of the North-Eastern States, they have some difficulty in regard to transporting small quantities of foodgrains. They say that they have some local rice available and that, therefore, they are able to manage it. The Chief Ministers and the concerned Ministers of these States had explained their difficulties. Then, there are the States in the South like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. They are giving foodgrains to all those persons who are entitled to it under the public distribution system. They are finding it difficult to give it at the price, at the issue price, at which we are giving. They are giving rice at a cheaper rate to these persons.

These are some of the practical difficulties. These are the difficulties faced by the States. We have had a meeting of all the Secretaries recently. It has been impressed upon them that foodgrains should be lifted regularly and that it was a mandatory provision. We have impressed upon them that it was meant for the rural people, that 2 kg. of foodgrains per manday should be given as a part of the wages. As I said, in the current year, there has been an encouraging response and we find from the figures of foodgrains lifted by States like Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan and Gujarat, that they have already... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. A. BABY: The answer is interminable.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: These are the difficulties being faced in different parts of the country in different ways. But it is a mandatory which is being implemented.

In regard to the second part of the question, I have explained what steps we are taking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has replied in great detail. Now, Mrs. Sinha, your second supplementary please.

SHRI M. A. BABY: No supplementary. (Interruptions)

मौलाना अबुदुल्ला खान अजमी :  
काम के बदले अनाज हो गया और  
सवाल के बदले जवाब हो गया ।

مولانا عبد اللہ خاں اعظمی :  
کام کے بدلے اناج ہو گیا اور  
سوال کے بدلے جواب ہو گیا ۔

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, I have not asked even my first supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Second supplementary please.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: No, Sir. I have not asked my first supplementary itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not accept that. The Minister's statement does contain the answer to your question. The reason why there was a fall in the output of foodgrains has been explained very well by the Minister in his statement. I do not accept your stand. Therefore, please ask your second supplementary.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: I may be allowed to ask my first supplementary.

He has read out a detailed reply. As far as my knowledge goes, this 'food for work' programme was first started in 1977 under the Janata Party's rule, Morarji Bhair's rule. Originally it was part of Antyodaya programme. Antyodaya is unto the last, which was Gandhiji's dream. This was a part of that programme and now its name has been changed to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. We have no objection to that. The hon. Minister has stated that mandays, employment generation and purchasing power in the rural areas will be increased by this programme. I would like to know how many mandays' work has been generated in the rural areas as against the target and whether any emphasis is being given to the flood-affected and the drought-affected areas in the country.

This is my first supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, I cannot allow you a second supplementary. There are other questions and other Members who want to make use of this Question Hour. I just cannot allow.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR  
The Jawahar Rozgar Jojna is being uniformly implemented in over 2,20,000 panchayats and 5,78,000 villages. This is a Centrally-sponsored scheme. We contribute 80 per cent and 20 per cent is contributed by States. This 2 kilogram of foodgrains is a part of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna.

So far as drought and flood affected areas are concerned, there are guidelines for rural construction. They are utilising these funds. Rather they are supposed to utilise these funds and even the additional funds granted by the Prime Minister to different State administrations. The additional fund given to different State administrations who suffered drought last year floods this year, the Calamity Relief Fund, they are all part of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna fund. Additional funds have been provided, additional foodgrains have been provided and in the rural areas they can utilise this fund. More specifically, State Governments have been advised to utilise as much foodgrains and additional funds as possible for the affected areas.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: What is the target and what has been achieved? That is the main part of the question.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:  
In 1992-93 the target was 753 million mandays. We have achieved 781.8 million mandays. We have got the State-wise details. If the hon. Member wants, I can read out the whole statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you please send the details.

श्री दिलीप सिंह जुदेव : सभापतिजी, जवाहर रोजगार योजना का एक आंकलन पिछले दिनों योजना आयोग द्वारा किया गया था और उसमें कुछ खामियां पाई गई थीं ।

में मन्त्री महोदय से आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इन खामियों को दूर करने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

**श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर :** सभापति जी, योजना आयोग के द्वारा जो योजना क्षेत्रों में चल रही है जवाहर रोजगार योजना में हम लोग केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से भी और राज्य सरकार की ओर से भी रेगुलर मोनिटरिंग सिस्टम जारी किए हैं। जो खामियां हमारे पास आती हैं उन्हें हम राज्य सरकार को सूचित करते हैं और उनसे अनुरोध करते हैं, उनसे कंप्लायंस की रिपोर्टें सूतें हैं कि उन त्रुटियों की पूर्ति हो गई और आगे उस तरह की त्रुटियां नहीं हों। इसके अतिरिक्त 32 प्रतिष्ठित देश की ऐसी संस्थाएँ हैं, मान्य संस्थाएँ हैं, जो विभिन्न राज्यों में हमारी योजनाएँ चल रही हैं उनके इन्वेल्गेशन के लिए, उसके मूल्यांकन के लिए विभिन्न राज्यों में आती हैं और हर 6 महीने में अपनी रिपोर्ट देती हैं। वह जो त्रुटियां बताई हैं **(व्यवधान)**

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** What is the reply, Sir? He is asking about the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has raised a debate on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. What is your Government doing? You are saying something else. You are not understanding this. He talked about the Planning Commission. What about the Planning Commission?.. **(Interruptions)** ...

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** I was speaking... **(Interruptions)** ... From different parts of the country, about programme efficiency, I take all representative cases.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** Are you aware of the Planning Commission's report on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana? That is only question ... **(Interruptions)** ...

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** I will check up and submit separately.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Have you got the answer? ... **(Interruptions)** ...

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** In recent times we have not received any such report, but I will check up. If it is an earlier report... **(Interruptions)**...

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** My point is, the Member is repeatedly asking about the Planning Commission's major report on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, and the Minister is not aware of any such report... **(Interruptions)**...

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** The Planning Commission had made a quick evaluation of the programmes and they had suggested generation of more man-days in the village areas.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** They do not agree with your figures... **(Interruptions)**...

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** We have kept higher targets. In the current year it is about 1,000 million man-days and we are trying to implement that effectively, with the help and cooperation of the State Governments. But what I was trying to mention is that apart from this we are having concurrent evaluation as well as a concurrent monitoring system, which is a new one and which has been introduced during the year 1992-93. They are being implemented in all the States even more effectively. That is what I was submitting.

**श्री सुरेश पञ्चोरी :** माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि गत तीन वर्षों में मध्य प्रदेश के लिए कितने अनाज आवंटन का लक्ष्य था और कितना उठाया गया और कम उठाया गया तो इसके क्या कारण थे ? साथ ही पिछले दिनों माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से मध्य प्रदेश के संसद सदस्यों का एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल मिला था, जिसने यह शिकायत की थी कि जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत जो राशि मध्य प्रदेश को दी गई है उसको किसी और मद में खर्च किया जा रहा है, तो उस संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ? क्या कारण है कि गत 3 वर्ष में जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत जो

राशि का आबंटन है उस आबंटन में लगातार कमी हो रही है ? उसके क्या कारण हैं माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें ।

**श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर :** सभापति जी, मध्यप्रदेश को 1989-90 में 1,59,474 मीट्रिक टन अनाज रिलीज किए गए थे, दिए गए थे । वर्ष 1990-91 में और 1991-92 में वहां की राज्य सरकार की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक उन्होंने कोई अनाज लिफ्ट नहीं किया । वर्ष 1992-93 में 68,729 टन अनाज उठाया और तभी 1993-94 में ... (व्यवधान) ...

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी :** लक्ष्य कितना था और उठाया कितना था मध्यप्रदेश ने ?

**श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर :** 1,14,100 टन का लक्ष्य था, वर्ष 1992-93 में केवल 68 हजार टन अनाज उन्होंने उठाया । वर्ष 1993-94 में लक्ष्य रखा गया 1,84,500 टन और अभी जून तक उन्होंने लिफ्ट किया है 19,393 टन ।

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी :** माननीय सभापति जी, मेरे दूसरे प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग का उत्तर नहीं आया कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री से मध्यप्रदेश के संसद सदस्यों ने यह शिकायत की थी कि जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत जो राशि यहां से प्रदान की गई है उस राशि को किसी और मद में खर्च किया गया है । इस बंध में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है एक बात और दूसरे पिछले तीन वर्षों में जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत केन्द्र और राज्य में राशि के आबंटन का रेशियो 80 और 20 का है, उसमें लगातार कमी हो रही है तो इस कमी के क्या कारण हैं ? ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं सभापति जी को सम्बोधित कर रहा हूं ।

**DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:\***

**SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:\***

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please sit down.

Hon. Minister, please answer.

**DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:\***

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That is for me to decide. You please sit down.

**SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: \***

**SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL\***

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would like this conversation to be blacked out, expunged from the record.

**श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर :** सभापति जी, पिछले वर्ष सुबाइ के दरमियान में यहां सांसदगण प्रधान मंत्रीजी से मिले थे । स्वयं प्रधान मंत्रीजी ने मध्य प्रदेश का दौरा किया और वहां की स्थिति को मद्दे नजर रखते हुए अतिरिक्त 90 करोड़ रुपए की राशि की घोषणा की और साथवही-साथ यह भी कहा कि जितना अधिक अनाज आपको आवश्यकतानुसार चाहिए, वह भी दिया जाएगा । तदनुसार वहां पिछले वर्ष के लास्ट क्वार्टर में जनवरी से मार्च के बीच उन्होंने काफी गत्ते उठाए और काफी राशि का उपयोग ग्रामीण विकास के काम में किया । इस साल उन्होंने 1,84,500 टन की मांग रखी है जिसे हमने स्वीकार किया है और अभी हम समझते हैं सभी राज्यों से मध्यप्रदेश अधिक अनाज ले रहा है और वहां जवाहर रोजगार योजना का कार्य शत-प्रतिशत चल रहा है । हमने स्वयं वहां जाकर सभी अधिकारियों से बातचीत की है और हमारे कृषि मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों को जिम्मेदारी खास तौर से अलग-अलग प्रांतों की दी गई है । वह भी जाकर निगरानी कर रहे हैं और राज्य के जो अधिकारीगण हैं ... (व्यवधान) ...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please conclude  
Please conclude.

**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR:** I am trying to explain it, Sir. Officers of the Rural Development Ministry are going to States and districts, and they are seeing the position. Districts have been allotted by the State Governments to specific officers. They go to districts and submit specific reports on how these

funds are utilised and what the difficulties are. Then, we have also asked all the districts to allot blocks to specific officers of the districts and the Block officers to visit the panchayats. Three or four Panchayats are allotted to one officer of the Block. There are about 25 extension officers in the Block. So, we are trying to take effective monitoring.

**SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:** Sir, Q. No. 157 is inextricably connected with this Question. So, the two may be clubbed together.

**SHRI SURESH KALMADI:** Sir, already half-an-hour has been spent on this Question.

**SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:** Yes, know.

**श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, कहते हैं कि पुराने जमाने में जब प्राकृतिक विपदा आती थी तो सामंतों और राजाओं के महल बना करते थे क्योंकि उन्हें बहुत सस्ते दाम पर मजदूर मिल जाया करते थे और हमारी यह जो जवाहर रोजगार योजना है, लगता है कि उसी का कुछ परिष्कृत रूप है। अब सामंतों के या राजाओं के महल और कोठियां तो नहीं बनती, बहरहाल इस जवाहर रोजगार योजना के जरिए ग्रामीण विकास का दावा किया जा रहा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि इस जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत प्रति श्रम दिवस का दो किलो अनाज दिया जाता है और शायद यही हम जवाहर रोजगार योजना की विफलता का कारण है क्योंकि सिर्फ यह योजना वहीं कारगर हो सकती है जहां प्राकृतिक विपदा हो। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि अगर वास्तव में आप जवाहर रोजगार योजना को गांव में स्थाई रूप से गरीबी को दूर करने की योजना से जोड़ना चाहते हैं तो क्या हमारे मंत्री महोदय के पास कोई ऐसी योजना है?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please conclude.

**SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESWARI:** I am concluding. I have not yet put the question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please ask your question.

**SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESWARI:** Now, I come to the question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If everybody — Members, Ministers — makes speeches, what do I do? Please ask your question.

**श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी :** चैयरमैन साहब, मेरा प्रश्न बहुत साफ है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय दो किलो अनाज की मात्रा को बढ़ाकर इसको न्यूनतम मजदूरी के स्तर तक लाना चाहते हैं और इसी से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है कि यह जवाहर रोजगार योजना है, यह बहुत बोझिल हो गई है राज्य-सरकारों के लिए क्योंकि इसके साथ योजना विभाग, एफ.सी.आई., एग्रीकल्चर... (व्यवधान)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please ask your question now.

**SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:** I am explaining why...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, you cannot explain. You please ask your question. Otherwise you sit down.

**SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:** I will just conclude.

मैं सिर्फ यह कह रही थी कि यह योजना इतनी बोझिल हुई जा रही है तो इसकी बोझिलता को दूर करने के लिए क्या कोई प्रशासनिक स्तर पर कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं, हमारे मंत्री महोदय?

**SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:** Kindly refer to Q. No. 157. The question is closely related to the question which is being answered by the Minister.

**SHRI SURESH KALMADI:** On one question 35 minutes have already been spent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is connected, but as he said, I cannot take more time on this subject. (*Interruptions*) you cannot get answers unless you keep quite.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Apart from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna we have got a number of other programmes which have a component of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. We have also got accelerated water supply scheme. We have got schemes on the other side also like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, training for women and children and like that. So, a number of programmes are going on in the rural areas. Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is one which is more or less mandatory. As I mentioned earlier, it has been going on. It is a great experiment because 5 lakh and 78 thousand villages under this programme are covered. It is being implemented by the village people with the help of the local authorities. I had anticipated Q. No. 157 will come up. So, I have mentioned the implementing agencies...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not answer Q. No. 157. I am not allowing that.

#### Merger of Indian Airlines and Air India

\*143. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the likely date for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR): (a) No such proposal

is under consideration of Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prevailing world trend in the aviation industry is towards mega carriers to meet the international competition. The major players in the aviation industry like the U.K., France, Germany, all of them have a single carrier system in both the international as well as domestic service routes. It will be indeed a step in the right direction to have one airline providing both domestic as well as international service routes.

Sir, to my mind, the merger of Vayudoot with Indian Airlines which has been incurring heavy losses was a step in the right direction. That was the first stage in restructuring the aviation industry. Now the next stage has to be the merger of Indian Airlines with Air India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister—the Ministry has been taking a lot of initiative in restructuring and streamlining the aviation industry—whether any proposal to merge Indian Airlines with Air India is being considered by her Ministry seriously. May I know from the Minister whether some effective steps will be taken to implement the merger proposal?

SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that certain countries are encouraging the system of having one airline; and from time to time views are being expressed and ideas are being discussed. But at the moment there is no proposal to merge these two airlines.