

श्री सभापति: रिकार्ड पर नहीं जा रहा है। रिकार्ड पर नहीं जा रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) ... माननीय सदस्य मैं आपको बता दूँ कि यह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जा रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: \*

श्री रत्नारायण पाणि: \*

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्य पाणि जी, मैं आपको वार्निंग देता हूँ कि दूसरों के क्वेश्चन्स में डिस्टर्ब करोगे, तो नतीजा भोगोगे। ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं अलाउ नहीं कर सकता। ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं अलाउ नहीं करूँगा। ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, let me answer this question.

Firstly, I reject, with all the strength at my command, any insinuation by the hon. Member that the Government of today would do any kind of discrimination between one Prime Minister and another Prime Minister. I reject that. But let me... (Interruptions)

SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU: It has happened in the case of Narasimha Raoji. (Interruptions) How can you say that? (Interruptions) The entire world know about it. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Even his dead body was left half-burnt. ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I am willing to provide the hon. Member with the information he has asked me, through you, about the memorials and how much grant has gone out from the Government. These grants go out from the Government to NGOs who look after those trusts. I shall collect the information on whatever grants have gone out from the Government, under different Governments, over the past years, and send it to the hon. Member, so that he will have courtesy to... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question No. 186.

### **Independent security agency at airports to monitor ground handling operations**

\*186. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: ††

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

\*Not recorded.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Prema Cariappa.

(a) whether to check up airport security, the Ministry of Home Affairs has suggested creation of an independent security agency to monitor ground handling operations at major airports, various sensitive functions including check-in, passenger facilitation, cleaning of aircraft, loading, unloading and pushback facility;

(b) if so, whether the specialized agency will include the experts from various organisations like the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Central Industrial Security Force and Airports Authority of India;

(c) if so, whether Ministry has considered the suggestions; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) No, Sir,

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied to my question. But if he agrees, I would like to ask another very specific question which does not pertain to this.

Sir, the Indian airlines is known for delay. Two days back, when I was coming from Bangalore, I boarded the 4:30 flight in the evening. It actually started at six. But, on the way, they found some technical snag and it landed at Hyderabad. From there, we had to take another flight and reach Delhi after midnight. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any security check-ups or technical check-ups are taken up before a flight takes off from the airport.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I just take the question in the right spirit, for everybody is concerned about safety and security and, therefore, I am attempting to answer. Otherwise, it doesn't arise out of the original question. But, I am sure, all of us fly and we are all concerned about safety and security. I can assure you that in terms of safety, for every aircraft which flies the Indian skies, be it of Indian Airlines or any other carrier, there are

strict safety measures which are adopted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. We comply with all the international norms. In fact, very recently, the International Civil Aviation Organization, which is the world body that conducts annual audits for many member States, conducted random audit for the DGCA and the entire Indian aviation sector, including airlines. let me assure the House that ICAO Audit Certification for India has been the highest that they have anywhere in the world. I think it is a compliment to the Indian civil aviation sector which is now on a very high growth trajectory. Of course, there are concerns; I share the concern of the hon. Member. Technical snag can occur in any aircraft and the Indian Airlines just happens to be one of those airlines which has, over a period of time, got a much aging fleet.

It has its own concerns. Any ageing fleet would have definitely some more technical issues. But, that does not mean, the age of an aircraft does not mean, it is safe or unsafe. All aircraft, as long as they are airworthy are equivalent in terms of safety. This may be one of those incidents which have taken place. I assure you that the Indian airlines is also doing its very best. They have shortage of aircraft. As all of us know, we have not been buying aircraft for many years. But, now the Government, after many, many years has taken this decision to induct new aircraft. I am sure, with the induction of new aircraft, the performance of the Indian Airlines will improve. But, once again, Sir, because it is a very general question, I can assure the entire House, through you, Sir, that there is absolutely no compromise on safety or security of any aircraft flying in India...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I return to the original question and the original answer, Sir, if you permit me. Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one fact that in this House we had earlier discussed the news that appeared that one of the private operators who was given the task of modernising the Delhi airport had appointed a foreign, Greek national as in-charge of their security operations. Then, the House expressed its concerns, I remember, Sir, saying that how you can have foreigners in-charge of security operations at the Indian airports. And, in the process of privatisation, have we actually diluted or compromised our security concerns. to this extent? The House was assured that this matter will be looked into, and then the remedial measures will be taken.

Now, what has the Government done about this? Do we still have a foreign national continuing to head the security operations at the Delhi Airport?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Let me, Sir, first correct my very esteemed friend, Shri Sitaram Yechury, that that Government has not privatised the Mumbai and Delhi airports. We have only adopted a joint-venture.....

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Privatisation .....(*Interruptions*)..... Modernisation.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: No, no; it is not even privatisation. It is a joint-venture for a limited number of years. It is not privatisation. But, anyway, coming to your concern about safety and security and a foreign national being associated, I think, this is a very larger issue which needs to be looked at in the right perspective. However, each and every person, whether he works in an airport or in an aircraft or has anything to do with aviation, has to first be cleared by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security which, in turn, does the check through the Home Ministry-various agencies are involved in it. And, after the due clearance has been received, then only a person is allowed to be associated either with a project or with an aircraft. Mr. Yechury, I would just like to expand on this a little bit by saying that, today, there are several foreign pilots who fly the domestic carriers of the country. It is arising out of the shortage of pilots because the aviation sector has grown faster than the number of pilots which our country was producing so far. Does that mean that those pilots who fly these aircraft, after due security check, are any threat? There are foreign airlines which also come and operate in India, and they are also operating on Indian sky .....(*Interruptions*)..... So, I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no compromise on this issue. No person has been appointed or is permitted to work unless he is thoroughly screened and checked and clearance is obtained from the Ministry of Home. ....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for this, but there is one thing .....(*Interruptions*)..... Sir, the point is very simple. Taking professional help and assistance or employing professionals who are foreigners is one matter. But, handing over the security of the airport to a foreign national, to head the entire security operations is an entirely different matter. So, don't confuse it by referring to having foreign national pilots.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I do not want to enter into a dialogue with the hon. Member, but I can assure him that the security function of an airport, or, any airport, for that matter, in India, remains a sovereign function. It is the Airports Authority, through the CISF, which is entirely responsible for the security not only of the Delhi Airport but all the Airports of India. And, the ATC also, is again a sovereign function which remains with the Airports Authority ...*(Interruptions)*... So, as far as safety in the air and safety on the ground, is concerned, this is not entrusted to any foreign national. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, It is a matter of concern that a Greek national has been made in-charge of security operations. ...*(Interruptions)*... You assure the House that ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I have assured the House, and I assure the House again that the security of Indian airports, including the Delhi airport, which is in joint-venture, remains with the CISF. The air security is with the ATC which remains with the Airports Authority. So, there is no question of safety and security as an issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Don't you get an Indian National ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Is it not ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री स्वप्न साधन बोस: सभापति जी, मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: मैं allow नहीं कर रहा हूँ। नकवी जी, आप पूछिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... देखिए, मैं, आपको allow नहीं कर रहा हूँ।

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने सुरक्षा के प्रति जो चिंता व्यक्त की है, मैं उनसे सहमत हूँ, लेकिन इस बीच मैं सुरक्षा के नाम पर जो कुछ हो रहा है—टूथपेस्ट बंद कर दिया गया, क्रीम बंद कर दी गई, और भी कई चीजें हैं, सबसे ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण बात जो है, मेरे साथ जो घटना हुई है—मोबाइलफोन को एक्सरे मशीन से गुजारा जाता है और उसके बाद बहुत से लोगों के मोबाइल बदल जाते हैं, किसी को किसी का मोबाइल मिल जाता है और बाद में जब घंटियाँ बजती हैं, तो पता लगता है कि किसका मोबाइल है। उससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि मैंने

मोबाइल उस एक्सरे मशीन में डाला, उसके बाद उसके सिम कार्ड में जो फोन बुक थी, वह पूरी की पूरी गायब हो जाती है। मैंने पूछा कि क्यों गायब हो गई, तो उन्होंने कहा कि एयरपोर्ट पर एक्सरे मशीन में जो एक्सरे करते हैं, उसमें जो rays होती हैं, उससे यह गायब हो जाती है। तो माननीय मंत्री जी, सुरक्षा जरूरी है, सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए, लेकिन आजकल मोबाइल असुरक्षित हो गया है, इसकी सुरक्षा कैसे होगी ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल: सभापति जी, मुझे तो मालूम नहीं कि आपके लिए कौन सी कंपनी मोबाइल बनाती है ... (व्यवधान)... बाकी बातें जो आपने कहीं, मैं आपकी एकाध बात स्वीकार कर सकता हूँ कि किसी का मोबाइल इधर का उधर हो गया हो, लेकिन यह मैमोरी की जो बात है, हम भी जाते हैं, हम भी सिक्योरिटी चैक के through जाते हैं, हमारे मोबाइल का आज तक नंबर नहीं गया है। ... (व्यवधान)... सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न एयरपोर्ट पर सिक्योरिटी के बारे में था और हम कहाँ से कहाँ पहुँच गए हैं, इसलिए कृपा करके हम भी आपसे थोड़ी सुरक्षा चाहते हैं।

### Maintenance of cemeteries

\*187. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign citizens are visiting India to see the cemeteries of their forefathers in Lucknow, Kanpur, Meerut and other places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their number is likely to increase in the year 2007 in view of 150th year of the First War of Independence in 1857; and

(c) if so, the arrangements made by Government in this regard for the tourists and the maintenance of these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The protected cemeteries with the Archaeological Survey of India are maintained and conserved in accordance with the Archaeological norms and principles. All the field staff of Archaeological Survey of India has been directed to keep these monuments in presentable condition and extend