

श्री राम नारायण साहू: *

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान)...

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: *

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: यह न सवाल है, न स्टेटमेंट है, यह कुछ नहीं है ... (व्यवधान) ... आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking precious time of the House. That is all.

आपकी बात कोई नहीं सुन रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... कोई नहीं रेकार्ड कर रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... आप इस प्रश्न को चलने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no...(Interruptions)... Please...(Interruptions)... No, no. We are following three supplementaries rule and that is what it is...(Interruptions)... आप बैठ जाइए ... (व्यवधान)... आप भी बैठ जाइए ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of this?...(Interruptions)...

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: *

श्री सभापति: देखिए, आधा क्वेश्चन, चौथाई क्वेश्चन से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता है। तीन क्वेश्चंस हो चुके हैं, इसके आगे कुछ नहीं हो सकता है। ...(व्यवधान)... साबिर अली साहब, आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ... (व्यवधान)... आप बैठ जाइए। इस वक्त आपका सवाल नहीं हो सकता है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: अगर आप दूसरे मैम्बर्स का हक मारना चाहते हैं, तो आप शोर मचाते रहिए ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat? ...(Interruptions)... The Chair will take action against you if you continue to disrupt the House like this. ...(Interruptions)... The Chair will take action against the Members who persist in disrupting the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)... Question No. 448. Let it be answered.

New airports in Orissa

*448. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new airports in Orissa during 2009-10;

*Not recorded.

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) by when Berhampur air-strip would be upgraded to a full-fledged airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, at two of Airports Authority of India's airports-namely Bhubaneswar, work of modernization is in progress, while, work of operationalizing airstrip at Jharsuguda will be undertaken once Government of Orissa hands over required additional land.

(c) There is no airstrip at Berhampur in Orissa as per the available records.

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, I would like to know whether any feasibility study has been conducted by the Airports Authority of India for the development of idle lying airstrips at the airports in Orissa. If 'yes', I would like to know the details of the airstrips and airports, which have been identified, and the progress made so far in this regard. By when these airports would become operational?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as far as Orissa is concerned, besides Bhubaneswar, the capital, one other airport, which belongs to the Airports Authority of India, has been chosen, as I mentioned in my answer to the previous question, for upgradation. However, there are some issues involved, especially that of land. As all of you know, these are all old runways or airstrips. Now, the times have changed. We have bigger aircraft that require bigger landing space. Therefore, we have asked for additional land. This is only with regard to the airports that belong to the Airports Authority of India.

Sir, I would also like to answer to the point raised by the agitated Member, Shri Shabir Ali, about the Raxaul Airport. The Raxaul Airport may have been a runway/airstrip, in the good old days, which you are right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please listen to my answer? It does not belong to the Airports Authority of India. It is under the jurisdiction of the State Government. There are many such airports even in Orissa which belong to the State Government. I am replying to your question, Madam Renubala. Most of the runways or airstrips across the country, minus the 125 or so, which belong to the Airports Authority of India, are under the ownership or domain of either the State Governments or the defence authorities. And, if some of these airports, which are non-operational, I am sure all of us will appreciate that it is for the State Governments to take up this under the Airports Development Programme. Many State Governments are being. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, I would correct my answer. I was giving a wrong answer. The Raxaul Airport belongs to the Airport Authority of India. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, I am willing to correct. It is not the issue of standing on somebody's pride or ego. I am correcting myself on whatever information I have got. But it is, again, not operational for various reasons, including non-availability of land. Even the Kamalpur Airport...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. I am answering your question, though it does not

arise out of this question. Mr. Matilal Sarkar, I saw your agitated mood. I am answering your question. The Kamalpur Airport, as you are aware since you come from Tripura, it is completely landlocked in terms of construction; it is in the middle of city. There is no space for expanding or modernising that airport. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot keep on giving your answers based on the inputs that I receive from you in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just trying to answer your point, keeping in view your agitated mood. ...*(Interruptions)*... But I do concede that some of these older, closed airports cannot be immediately operationalised because of various other constraints. Also, the fact is that, in Orissa, as Madam Renubala pointed out, I am coming back to her question, except the Jharsuguda Airport, we do not have, at the moment, any other airport that has been planned for upgradation because that is the only airport available with us. The other airports are with the State Governments. I will also convey your sentiments to the State Government.

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Will the Government give international airport status to the Biju Patnaik Airport and upgrade its facilities to that of international standards? If 'yes', how much funds have been earmarked for the same? By when the work is likely to be completed?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the Bhubaneswar Airport is, certainly one of the airports which have been taken up in the 35 non-metro airports for modernisation and upgradation. A lot of work has already taken place. More work, especially, on the terminal and other areas is also in process of construction in terms of plan, tendering, etc. All that process has already been initiated. I can, certainly, say that in a short span of time the work of building a new terminal will also commence. In terms of money, we have earmarked about Rs.145 crores for the terminal upgradation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Rajeev Shukla.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, इनका क्वेश्चन हो चुका है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: मैं मानता हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं यह मान रहा हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... सवाल उड़ीसा पर ही उठेगा ...*(व्यवधान)*... पाणि जी, आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़।

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has said that a lot many airports are non-operational. In reply to the earlier question, he said that 32 airports were non-operational. Then, why in the first place, were these airports constructed when they were not supposed to be operational? Secondly, he has got some problem with the Ministry of Defence. What about the Goa Airport? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, please stick to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: It has been pending for very long. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, put your supplementary on this question please, that is, about the airports in Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*... Put just the question. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... The question is before you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, my previous question was very much related to the North-Eastern region. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, your previous question is not in relevance...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I did not get the...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question relating to this question.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Okay, Sir. I would like to say that my previous question was very much related to the North-Eastern region...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may well have been, but we are now on the next question.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Yes, Sir, I am coming to the question. Sir, air connectivity of Orissa and air connectivity of the North-Eastern Region is very poor. The Capitals of many of the States in the North-Eastern are running without any airport ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you on Orissa or on the North-Eastern region? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I want to know whether the Minister is prepared to establish airport in each and every State Capital of the North-Eastern region. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why should a mockery be made of the Question Hour?

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, देखिए...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... उत्तर प्रदेश की राजधानी लखनऊ से पहले एक योजना थी ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ...*(व्यवधान)*... उस पर क्या हुआ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: साहू जी, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़ आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, there exists an airport at Rourkela, which is operated, if I am not mistaken, by the Steel Authority of India. Now, my question to the hon. Minister is: Why cannot an airport like Rourkela, which is, otherwise somewhat inaccessible from major cities, whether it is Orissa or its neighbouring States, be upgraded? As per the reply given by the Minister, some of these airports belong to the Defence establishment of the State Government. Sir, I feel that it is not a satisfactory answer. If the Government wishes to upgrade, I am sure that none of these ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question time is running out.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: My specific question is whether there is any plan to operationalise the Rourkela Airport as a full-fledged commercial airport.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, like in Jamshedpur, TISCO has upgraded their own airport for civilian use, let the Rourkela Steel Plant or SAIL upgrade that airport for civilian use. You can ask the commercial companies to operate them.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: It is for you to ask them.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: There is no issue. It is a private airport belonging to SAIL. Let the SAIL operate it and I am sure that the commercial operation will start. (Ends)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Listed companies for expansion in higher education sector

*441. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the need to make higher education in the country independent of Ministry's interference and to ensure quality by allowing the listed companies to expand higher education programmes;

(b) whether Government is in favour of increasing the enrolment rate in higher education to over 20 per cent from present 12 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is Government's view to regulate higher education through an independent regulator, who may remove entry barrier to allow more players as well as give students more choice to choose from?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the autonomy of universities and other institutions of higher learning. The National Policy on Education as well as judicial pronouncements, are against the commercialization of higher education. While any company can assist in providing for improving research and quality of institutions of higher education, there is no proposal at present to allow listed companies to directly establish institutions in higher education. Creation of an overarching regulatory body in higher and technical education, working at arm's length from Government, is one of the priorities of the Government. One of the objectives of Eleventh Five Year Plan, is to strengthen the quality of higher education, for which several academic reforms, have been initiated.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council (NDC), has a target to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 5% by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (2007-12) and increasing it to 21% by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

Revision of wages for Bank employees

*445. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revision of wages of the officers and staff of Public Sector Banks is due since November, 2007;