

श्री माधवराव सिंधिया : मैंने कहा है कि अभी आर० पी० एफ० और आर० पी० एस० एफ० को सम्मिलित नहीं किया गया है। इसके बारे में मैं पूर्ण जानकारी ले लूंगा। लेकिन इसमें जी० आर० पी० मेरे ख्याल से सम्मिलित नहीं है क्योंकि हमारी पुलिस भी सम्मिलित नहीं है, लेकिन इसके बारे में जानकारी माननीय सदस्य को दे दूंगा।

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that last year 42 days' wages were paid as bonus to the railway employees. In his Budget Speech, he said that the volume of work has increased tremendously during last year and he also complimented the railwaymen on the better performance shown. In view of the increase in work and the better performance of the railwaymen, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is considering the question of increasing the number of days in regard to payment of bonus to more than 42 this year.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, PLB will be calculated according to the agreement which has been arrived at. I think, the hon. Member must quite familiar with the details of the agreement. If not, I can enumerate them...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What is the contemplation for the next year?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It will depend on the productivity calculated and arrived at according to the formula.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the number of days in regard to bonus payment has increased continuously from 35 days in the base year to 42 days or it is fluctuating any on the basis of this trend whether it is going to increase in future years. The second part of my question is, bonus is payable to employees drawing wages above Rs. 2,500. In view of the change in the cost of living; I would like to know whether there is any possibility, whether it is being contemplated by the Government to

reduce it to below Rs. 2,500 so that the under privileged classes will also be benefited by this.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the position is the reverse of what has been stated by the hon. Member. Bonus is payable, PLB is payable, to all employees drawing wages up to Rs. 2,500 and in the Railways, *ex-gratia* is payable to all those employees drawing wages between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 3,500.

As far as the number of days is concerned, it has gone up from 32 in 1983-84 to 33 in the next year and then on to 40 in the subsequent year. This year, a new formula for PLB has been introduced and it comes to 42 days.

*123. [The questioner (Shri Rasheed Masood) was absent For answer, vide col. 30 infra].

*124. [The questioner (Shrimati Veena Verma) was absent. For answer, vide col. 31 infra].

Airlinking of Tuticorin

*125. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to airlink Tuticorin with the rest of country; and

(b) what steps have been taken to improve Vagaukulam airport?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of an airport at Vagaukulam (Tuticorin) has been initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu in consultation with the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

National Airports Authority. The proposal is at present at a preliminary stage.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir the demand to airlink Tuticorin with the rest of India has been pending with the Government of India for more than a decade. In the year 1980 itself the Civil Aviation Minister gave an assurance on the floor of this House that survey has already been completed, the land is ready and the work will be started before the end of 1980 itself. Now 7 years have passed and the Government comes out with a reply that the proposal is at a preliminary stage. This shows the cavalier attitude of the Government towards an important demand to airlink Tuticorin with the rest of India.

Sir, Tuticorin is one of the biggest ports in the whole South-East Asia. In order to develop Industry, thermal plant and agriculture it is necessary to airlink Tuticorin. Sir, many of the places for which proposals were sent much later to the Government of India, those places have been air-linked.

The hon. Minister who gave the assurance is not there. Suddenly another Minister has been brought to occupy this Chair. Many Ministers have come and gone. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether it has been decided to shelve this proposal or put into cold storage. Or, are you really sincere to airlink Tuticorin with the rest of India?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: A man may come and a man may go but I can tell the hon. Member that I am here to reply to his all queries. The Government of India in the Ministry of Civil Aviation is aware of all the assurances and is committed to airlink Tuticorin with the rest of the country. We are aware of the assurance given. In the meantime, the State Government of Tamil Nadu had assured us to give 400 acres of land and a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs. That 400

acres of land has not been transferred and the amount of Rs. 30 lakh has also not been given. The moment we get the land.... (Interruptions). The ball is in the court of Tamil Nadu Government, not with us.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, another proposal was considered by the Government of India to airlink Tuticorin by providing Vayudoot service to Kayatar, where a runway is already existing, which was constructed during the Second World War by the British. It is just 40 km away. The Civil Aviation Minister last year assured that Vayudoot service will be provided to Kayatar. I would like to know what happened to that assurance and the proposal which will airlink Tuticorin area with rest of India because this is also at a equal distance from Tuticorin.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: So far as Kayatar is concerned, It is an abandoned airfield, having two runways of 8150 ft. and 6150 ft. but they are at present abandoned. We are definitely taking all these things into consideration.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir he has not replied whether Vayudoot service will be provided. He has evaded my query. (Interruptions). Sir, Mr. Minister is prepared to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not prepared (Interruptions)

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, it is a long pending matter. Till the completion of the Vagaikulam airport, the assurance from the Government was that temporarily Vayudoot service might be restored from Kayatar. The runway and every thing was constructed during the Second World War. It has been accepted that it is suitable for Vayudoot. This was accepted four years back. Thereafter so many Vayudoot services have been introduced in Tamil Nadu—namely in Tanjavur and Neyveli. Tanjavur is only 30 miles from Tiruchi but because of Shri Moopanar it has

been introduced. (*Interruptions*) I am not against that. But the fact must be known to the House. But at the same time.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, this is not correct. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is an effective Member of Rajya Sabha.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I am not against that. But that shows how the Government is very enthusiastic as far as... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any objection? He has the right to praise Shri Moopanar.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I am welcoming it. I am thanking him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She says why you are praising him alone. You must praise her also.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: My point is... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him put the question. You cannot disturb a questioner. the Minister will reply.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: My point is very simple. I am not yielding, Sir. My point is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. If there is any objection, the Minister will do it. If I permit you there will be no end. Let him put his question. When I asked you, you said 'No'.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: My point is, I am not blaming him. I am actually thanking Mr. Moopanar for this service. But that is a different matter.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: But, Sir, you asked me to sit down and I sat down. But he is mentioning the name of Shri Moopanar again and again. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am addressing the Chair. I am not addressing any Member. I am talking to the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not have any grudge against each other. Shri Moopanar is a respectable Member and if it is because of his intervention, it is good.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: But, Sir, it is an insinuation which is not correct. This is what I am saying. You should not allow such kind of insinuations.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: It is not an insinuation. I am thanking Mr. Moopanar. You belong to the other faction. That is why you are raising this.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, we will also get up and make such insinuations.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let them fight in Tamil.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: My point is, the Civil Aviation Ministry was kind enough, gracious enough to start this service within 30 miles from Tiruchi, but it takes more than five years to open a service where there is no air service at all. Why should there be such a delay?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why did you open the service at other places and not here?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I draw your attention to the rules.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Kulkarni always comes to the rescue of lady Members.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Just listen to me Under Rule 47(2). It is stated:

"It shall not bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible".

Sir, he has taken the name of Mr. Moopanar.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: So what? He is a sitting Member. He has paid a compliment to him.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Let him pay a compliment to him. But she is quite right in saying that it is not proper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been paying so many compliments to you. You never objected. Similarly, I have been paying compliments to Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan. She never objected.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: But, Sir, giving compliment is a tricky matter.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is expected from Shri Kulkarni to help the damsel in distress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are also chivalrous. Bengalis are very chivalrous.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: They have first to help themselves. Then only can they come to the rescue of damsels.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No girl can be molested in Bengal. That is what I was told.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I abide by your ruling, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I have seen and I have been told. Eve-teasing is not permitted there.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: There is no molestation.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: They molest men.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Calcutta people are so bold that if there is any eve-teasing, people will take care of it.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You appreciate the Left Front Government. That we know.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We have come from Tuticorin to molestation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I pay my compliment without anybody objecting to all of you. Let us now come to the question.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: That is the best compliment.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The question is this. The Tamil Nadu Government has to choose between Tuticorin and Kayatar. They have not said so. For Tuticorin we have given the assurance, not for Kayatar. The Kayatar airport is not operational.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Kayatar and Vigaikulam are equally distant from Tuticorin. He has not understood the question at all.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Vigaikulam is the permanent airport area. Till service is started, we want temporary Vayudoot service from Kayatar. Nobody is asking for Kayatar. There is no such proposal. You are quite unaware of that.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The Kayatar airport is not operational, I have said it.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir may I draw your attention to this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You got a chance. I asked you to put a supplementary. But you did not.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not asking a question. I just want to know whether you are allowing the name to remain on record in view of this rule. If you permit me to read out the rule, I will read it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will just explain the rule. The rule is for the purpose that you cannot bring anybody's name who is not present when you are casting aspersions on him or telling something against him. But here this is a compliment. Even I from the Chair cannot cast an aspersion on anybody who is not present. I am not expected to cast aspersions against a Member who is sitting here also. But I think there is no bar to paying compliments.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: It is a back-handed compliment.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Because he belongs to the other faction in Tamil Nadu, he is objecting, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: It is not a compliment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is my interpretation of the rule. The rule, according to me, debars anybody from casting aspersions on anybody who is not a Member or even if he is a Member of the House casting aspersions or telling against him without giving him notice. That is a clear rule. That is not permitted. But for praising people there is no bar. At least I understand that if a Member from Tamil Nadu, a Member of Rajya Sabha gets something done for Tamil Nadu, he must be complimented. I took it like that. If there was anything else in his heart, I do not know. But I took it as a compliment. I always compliment a person if by his persistence, insistence something good is done anywhere in India. I would like you also to insist, persist, pester if necessary, the Ministers sitting here and get something good done. We are here for that purpose.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But he has got it done in his capacity as the AICC General Secretary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an aspersion. This is not permitted. No.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: It is an insinuation. It is not a compliment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not permitted. This is against the rule.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: It is not because he is the AICC General Secretary, but because he is a Member that he insisted the Minister on doing it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Is it possible for Members like me to get such things done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have had good.... (Interruptions).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Are left-handed compliments allowed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now let us come to the question. He has given the answer. Let us move on.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, we are discussing something, but what has happened to the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: According to my humble submission, the thrust of the question is whether it is Tuticorin, Kayatar or any remote area, the problem is how to bring these remote areas on the air map of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about Tuticorin and you are asking about Azhmagarh.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Kayatar and other places.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask about Tuticorin. Next question.