

[1 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

जो डीज़ल का दाम बढ़ा है, वह गरीबों की बर्दाश्त से बाहर हो रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... फिर जवाब यह दिया जा रहा है कि हम लोगों ने भी बढ़ाए थे। हम कब मना करते हैं कि हमने नहीं बढ़ाए थे, लेकिन 4-4 रुपए नहीं बढ़ाए थे। हमने उतने ही बढ़ाए थे जितने...**(व्यवधान)**... सरकार की आमदनी बढ़ी है, सरकार क्यों जवाब नहीं देती ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्यों नहीं जवाब दिलवाते इस बात का ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Question No. 128, please. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: क्यों नहीं जवाब दे पा रहे आप ? ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसका जवाब दीजिए और एक श्री विजय कुमार रुपाणी ने प्रश्न पूछा था आपसे कि पेट्रोलियम प्रॉडक्ट्स पर आपको कितना नफा या नुकसान होता है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : अब आप बैठिए, मैंने दूसरा क्वेश्चन ले लिया है। प्रश्न संख्या 128.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: और कितना फायदा होता है ?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No supplementary has been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... In view of the situation that has arisen and as a lot of Members are showing interest, please allow a Short Duration Discussion on this very important issue regarding increase in revenue and the possible ways of making reduction in taxation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You send a notice to discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Next Question.

New airport in Assam for Asian Safari

*128. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the a private Thai airline operator has proposed making the State part of an Asian Safari circuit and is interested in Building an airport in Assam;

(b) whether the Bangkok Airways is interested in building an airport near the Kaziranga National Park and other facilities to make Assam in Asian Safari Destination; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

WE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, the Minister has given his reply in the negative. But the Chief Minister of Assam made a statement on 28th May that a private Thai Airways is proposing to make Assam State a part of an Asian Safari Circuit. The Bangkok Airways is interested in Building an airport near Kaziranga National Park and provide facilities to make Assam an Asian Safari Destination. I would like to know whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Assam for this private airport.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. ChairmnrSir, the question which the hon. Member has put is about a private Thai Airlines having written to the Chief Minister of Assam, I will be happy to look into it because I do not have any communication from that particular airlines. As far as we are concerned, we have an ASEAN policy where we have unlimited access to 18 destinations within India from the ASEAN countries. That was announced by the earlier Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister. So, if there is any request, we can consider their operations in Assam to the extent possible. Kaziranga, of course, is considered as one of the 18 destinations. Regarding building of an airport, I do not think an airport can be just built by any particular airlines. There has to be a specific proposal both from the State and the Centre. There are various aspects, which have to be considered before any approval is given. However, if there is some proposal and if it is for the development of Assam and tourism in Assam, the Government of India can always discuss and try to find ways of developing a safari circuit there.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: I would like to know whether any permission has been sought by the State Government and whether the Civil Aviation Ministry will consider it.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I just said regarding building of airports that it is not something as simple as allowing just because an application is made. There are various considerations. However, there are many

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airports in Assam. I do not immediately have an answer as to how would be the airport closer to Kaziranga. But I am sure if there is a need, we can always look into various ways and means to promote tourism there.

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there is a lot of not only safari but religious tourism also and India is a tourist destination. There has to be a clarity about the role of the State Governments and the Central Government in giving permission for building airports on BOT basis or what type of investments because there are security concerns in particular areas. There has to be clarity in the policy. I am sure, Sir, with Destination India today there is enough scope of private operators coming up. Let there be a discussion and consensus between the States and the Centre on clarity of position.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there is no confusion in terms of policy as far as building of airports is concerned. There is a well laid out policy and according to that new airports have been made from time to time within the country by the State Governments or by the Airports Authority. Even now green field airports have been permitted in joint ventures. So, it is not something where there is a lack of clarity. If there is any specific proposal which the hon. Member would like to bring to our notice, we will be happy to respond to his concerns. But religious tourism or tourism in general in our country is on upward trend. It is being reflected in the healthy numbers. In fact, aviation, both domestic and international, is showing a very healthy trend in terms of growth. I am sure the hon. Member and the entire House will agree with that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Budgetary support to PSUs for payment of salaries

*124. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving budgetary support to various loss making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to clear the outstanding payment of salaries and statutory dues to their employees;