

**REFERENCE TO ALLEGED INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO PASSENGERS BY PRIME MINISTER'S FLIGHT TO LONDON**

**SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:** (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I rise to focus before you a matter of great and grave public concern. A news item has appeared in the *Statesman* of the 25th June. The news item is captioned "Desai's Flight Caused Hardship".

There are two aspects of this news. Firstly, it brings to light the inconvenience caused to passengers who travelled along with the hon. Prime Minister to London, who was going there to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference. A substantial loss of goodwill and money has also been reported to have occurred to the national carrier. The other, and more important, part of the news is that Shri Kantibhai Desai, the illustrious son of our Prime Minister, accompanied him to London. The news item says: Mr. Kantibhai Desai travelled on a concessional one-way ticket issued for travel from New Delhi to Amsterdam. In this connection, I may say, in the first place, that concessional return tickets are available only for the U.S.A. and not for the U.K. As such, how was Shri Kantibhai Desai issued a concessional ticket to Amsterdam? Secondly, as per the rules governing the issue of concessional tickets, passengers are allowed to disembark only at the place to which the tickets are issued and they cannot break their journey on the way. As such, how was Shri Kantibhai, who was holding a ticket to Amsterdam, allowed to disembark at London?

Thirdly, Sir, he was holding a ticket for Amsterdam and he travelled to London. No extra charge has been made for Amsterdam-London sector. Fourthly, Sir, on what ground was the foreign exchange released to Shri Kantibhai Desai and what was the amount of foreign exchange released to him for accompanying his father? I am sure, Sir, both the hon. Prime Minister and Shri Kantibhai Desai

are ignorant of the violations of the rules. Blessed are those who are ignorant. But, Sir, the Home Minister has, time and again; reiterated in the House and the other House that he wants to establish a rule of law, and no personal rule. He has said that those found guilty, from the highest political authority to the lowest functionary, would be punished according to law. Since the matter is agitating the public mind, I would urge upon the Home Minister to institute a commission of inquiry to investigate the flagrant violation of rules committed by Shri Kantibhai Desai, for, the charity should begin at home. I am sure, Sir, by doing so the Home Minister will not only satisfy the agitated public mind but also improve upon his own and his party's image. Thank you.

**REFERENCE TO ALLEGED MISREPORTING OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE PRESS.**

**SHRI KHYOMO LOTHIA** (Nagaland): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have to mention about mis-reporting of the proceedings of this House by the press, particularly the *Hindustan Times* of 24th June. This refers to the discussions on the 23rd June in this House on a Short Notice Question raised by one Shri Shrikant Verma. Sir, during the discussions I simply asked certain questions from the Minister but in the press, the paper has reported:

"However, the Home Minister's reply did not satisfy a Nagaland member, Mr. Lotha who said the Nagas were annoyed over the delay in holding elections in Nagaland."

Sir, I have not said this, nor would I say that the Naga people are annoyed over the postponement of elections. This would simply imply that because of the postponement of elections, Nagas are going to start incidents as took place in Dimapur. The paper went on to say:

"While the Home Minister was replying, Mr. Lotha persistently interrupted him. Irritated Mr. Charan