

'Bengal Bandh'. That question is already discussed and I do not want to go into that question. Really speaking, it is in the context of this that we had mutual discussions, and I think the discussions were helpful, co-operative and friendly. I do not want to say anything which will unnecessarily create a wrong atmosphere about it.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister's answers to this question really raise the whole problem once again. Now I just want to ask the hon. Minister. Why should the "Bengal Bandh" be regarded at all as a problem between the State of West Bengal and the Union Government? The very fact that the hon. Minister still harps on it as an aspect of the problem between the State of West Bengal and the Union of India shows that his mind is not yet clear of misconception and misunderstanding. Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House that, as far as the "Bengal Bandh" of 10th April is concerned, the Union Government is satisfied that the State Government did nothing more than to see that Central Government property and all other property were properly protected by asking certain concerns and undertakings to close down in order that they may not be destroyed or they may not be damaged?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Madam, about this "Bengal Bandh" matter I have already said in this hon. House whatever I had to say, and I do not want to repeat it, also because, after the discussions between the representatives of the State Government and the Central Government, it is not right to raise the question again now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

T.A. AND D.A. PAID TO CHAIRMAN OF I.A.C.

*339. **SHRI ARJUN ARORA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount of T.A. and D.A. paid to the Chairman of Indian Airlines during each year of his term as Chairman;

(b) the number of air journeys performed by him within the country at the cost of Indian Airlines; and

(c) the number of trips abroad undertaken by the Chairman, since his appointment, financed by the Indian Airlines and the actual cost and foreign exchange spent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SHRIMATI) SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) No T.A. or D.A. was paid to the Chairman, Indian Airlines for the tours undertaken by him within the country although he was entitled to these.

(b) Six.

(c) The Chairman undertook 2 trips abroad on behalf of the Corporation for which complementary tickets were issued by foreign airlines. The expenditure incurred by the Indian Airlines in this connection was Rs. 5171.94 all in foreign exchange.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Madam, may I know why this sum of Rs. 5,000 odd was spent and what were the purposes and achievements of these foreign trips?

DR. KARAN SINGH: As has been pointed out in the answer, for the trips within the country, of course—although there was the entitlement—no money was paid. For these foreign trips also we were saved from having to pay the fare because of a well-known international convention according to which Chairmen of Airlines are offered reciprocal facilities by other Airlines. Apparently, this sum of Rs. 5,000 odd on the two tours must have been on his stay when he was abroad.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What was the purpose, I asked.

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am not sure what it was; I do not have the information but I think these were concerned probably with attending some aviation conferences; I will have to check on that, but certainly they should have been for some *bona fide* purposes, and it is a very small sum.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Biren Roy.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I have a second question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall come to you again.

SHRI BIREN ROY: I ask this question because the Deputy Minister has stated that complimentary tickets were issued. Is it not a fact that under the IATA Rules no Airlines can issue a complimentary ticket to any person, even to Chairman of Airlines? If it is a question of an invitation, that is a different thing. That is why I would like to ask whether it was on an invitation or on a mission of the Indian Airlines; it may be one of the two things.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Madam, my information is that it was as a result of certain work connected with the Airlines. I do not think it was on an invitation. I will have to check on this. Frankly, Madam, I did not expect this question to come up.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: On a point of order, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: The hon. Minister was pleased to state that he did not come prepared for this question because he did not expect this question to come up. Now a days, Madam, the hon. Ministers are not keeping themselves prepared for more than the first five questions and they are not having the files containing information with them to answer the supplementaries arising out of the questions subsequent to the first five questions, as is the case today with this question. Thus, the House is put to a lot of difficulty. From today onwards the hon. Ministers should proceed on the basis that every question on these question papers would be dealt with in the House and they should have the records and the files with them here to answer the supplementary question—which has not been the case today.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You said that Chairmen of Airlines are offered reciprocal facilities by other Airlines, which Mr. Biren Roy questioned. Have you anything to say in reply?

DR. KARAN SINGH: I will have to check up that the IATA Regulations that the hon. Member has referred to. My impression is that actually there is a convention according to which complimentary tickets are issued even apart from invitations, but I will check on that, on the IATA Regulations.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What about the suggestion made by Mr. Chandrasekharan that Ministers should come prepared to answer all the supplementary questions arising out of the question listed for a day, that they should have their briefs or files with them if need be.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is a very good suggestion.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस इंडियन एयर लाइंस का अध्यक्ष कौन है और वह कितने समय से अध्यक्ष बना हुआ है ? क्या अध्यक्ष बनने के लिए किसी खास योग्यता की आवश्यकता होती है और जो वर्तमान अध्यक्ष है उनकी अध्यक्षता जिस ढंग से चल रही है, क्या उनके विरुद्ध इंडियन एयर लाइन्स में काम करने वालों में असंतोष नहीं है ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : इस समय वर्तमान अध्यक्ष श्री भरत राम है और पहली अगस्त 1967 से वे इस पद पर काम कर रहे हैं और यह पद 3 वर्ष के लिए चलता है । जहाँ तक इस पद के अध्यक्ष को छांटने में योग्यता का प्रश्न है, इस तरह के जितने भी पब्लिक सैक्टर कारपोरेशन होते हैं, उनके लिए कोई विशेष प्रकार के रिक्विटमेंट रूल्स नहीं होते हैं । इसमें एक विचारणीय प्रश्न यह होता है कि कौन ऐसा व्यक्ति होगा जो इस काम को अच्छी तरह से चला सकता है । मैं माननीय सदस्य से विनम्र प्रार्थना करूँगा कि जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है 1967 से लेकर आज तक इंडियन एयर लाइन्स में बहुत उन्नति हुई है । 1967 में इसको 4½ करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ था ।

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा यह सवाल नहीं है ।

डा० कर्ण सिंह : आपका सवाल असंतोष के संबंध में है और जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है असंतोष की कोई बात नहीं है । लेकिन मैं तो अपनी ओर से एक बात कह रहा हूँ ।

जिस वर्ष में उन्होंने इस एयर लाइन्स का कार्यभार सम्माला यानी 1967 में, उस समय इंडियन एयर लाइन्स को 4½ करोड़ रुपये का घाटा था और अब जो वर्ष 31 मार्च को समाप्त हो चुका है, उसमें इंडियन एयर लाइन्स को 1 करोड़ 80 लाख रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ है। इस तरह में इंडियन एयर लाइन्स में 6 करोड़ रुपये का इम्प्रूवमेंट हुआ है।

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो जवाब दिया है उसमें अब हमको सप्लीमेंटरी करने की इजाजत होनी चाहिये क्योंकि पहले उन्होंने कहा कि 4½ करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ है और अब कहते हैं 1 करोड़ 80 लाख रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि किराये में कितनी वृद्धि की गई है?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : 15 प्रतिशत की।

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Madam, may I know what are the factors responsible for this changed look of Indian Airlines? Is it only the Chairman or also the staff and the planes?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Madam, it is a combination of a number of circumstances including the phasing out of the uneconomical type of aircraft like the Dakotas, the improvement certainly in the managerial system of the Corporation and the various other remedial measures that we have taken from time to time to make this really a top class Airline.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Don't also forget the increase in fares by 25 per cent.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ENQUIRY AGAINST AN OFFICIAL OF THE DIRECTORATE OF AERONAUTICAL INSPECTION, CALCUTTA

*320. **SHRI A. D. MANI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri V. N. Kapoor of the Directorate of Aeronautical Inspection of Calcutta, was held responsible for the accident by fire to Air India Boeing 707 at Bombay causing a damage of one crore of rupees;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted against Shri Kapoor; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what was the result of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):
(a) No, Madam

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

गंगा नदी पर पुल

*328. **श्री सूरज प्रसाद :** क्या संसद-कार्य तथा नौवहन और परिवहन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार की सरकार ने गंगा नदी पर पुल बनाने के लिये चौथी योजना में रखी गई राशि के अलावा 25 करोड़ रुपये की राशि मांगी है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किया है ?

†[BRIDGE OVER GANGES]

*328. **SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar has asked for a sum of Rupees twenty five crores for the construction of a bridge over the Ganges in addition to the aid provided in the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

संसद-कार्य, नौवहन तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री के० रघुरामैया) : (क) जी, हां।

†[] English translation.