

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 3rd April, 1967/the 13th
Chaitra, 1889 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Andhra
Pradesh)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

†NON-ACCEPTANCE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL BY IAC AIRCRAFT

*118. PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the aircraft of the Indian Airlines Corporation do not accept radioactive material packed for transport by the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, to various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Radioactive materials in limited quantities can be accepted by Indian Airlines Corporation for carriage on Sky-master and Viscount aircraft where storage of such materials has been considered safe. However, since all the prescribed restrictions in regard to location at a particular place in the aircraft, distance from passengers, etc. cannot be complied with in the case of Caravelle, Friendship and Dakota aircraft, such consignments cannot be carried on them.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Sir, the radioactive material is carefully packed according to the internationally-accepted

†Transferred from the 28th March, 1967.

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standards and regulations. It is packed in a lead container to keep the radiation at its minimum, and on this condition alone the airlines accept the carriage of radio-isotopes. If these are the conditions under which it is accepted by the two airlines, may I know why the Dakota and other aircraft, which have been mentioned here, do not accept it? That is number one. Then, Sir, number two is that the foreign airlines accept in every aircraft all these things which are sometimes rejected by our aircraft. What is the reason that others accept it and we reject it?

DR. KARAN SINGH: As you know, Sir, radioactive materials are classified as dangerous and their carriage is governed by certain rules. There is the International Air Transport Association of which the I.A.C. and Air-India are members and we follow the rules which they have laid down. There is also the Directorate of Radiation Protection and whatever we do in this regard is done in consultation with this Directorate. So far the only planes upon which we are told we can safely carry them are these two planes that we have mentioned. I am sure the hon. Member will agree that we can afford to take no risks whatsoever and we are governed by the technical advice that we receive.

With regard to the second point, I am not sure whether there are many airlines in the world which still ply these Dakota aircraft and whether the Dakotas carry such material or not, but I can assure the hon. Member that there is no disinclination on the part of the airlines to carry them except that we want to be extremely careful, because they are very dangerous commodities.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Sir, I visited the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay the other day. I was told there that the other countries, I mean the foreign countries, accept it but our