

that in the new fixation of tariff it is a point to point fixation of tariff where there is a considerable benefit to the long-distance travellers. Then there are other benefits such as, if there is a stop-over for reason of the connection being missed or something else beyond the control of the passenger himself, then he is accommodated, freehold accommodation is provided for him, some benefits are extended by the I.A.C. Therefore, on the whole the I.A.C. in its new tariff fixation has tried its best to help the travelling public and not to take away something which is against I.A.T.A. undertaking.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It has been obvious that all is not well with the industrial relations in the two corporations. May I know if in view of this the Government will order a special probe by experts on industrial relations or labour conditions in the two corporations?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: The management-labour relationship has been not all too bad. We have had peaceful years from 1962 up till now. Only now the agreement expires and therefore there is a charter of demands now drawn up by the employees which is under examination. I think by negotiation we will be able to come to a satisfactory solution. Here and there stray cases are bound to be there. It is a huge organisation spread all over the country. Eleven thousand people are working in the I.A.C. If certain things happen here and there, it should not alarm hon. Members of this august House.

SHRIMULJICAGOVINDAREDDY: In view of the fact that there is a great deal of muddle in the working of both the corporations and there are no good relations existing between the pilots and the airhostesses, and a complaint has been made that the Secretary of the Ministry is the Chairman of the Airlines Corporation, an assurance was given by the Minister. I would like to know whether a Committee is going to be appointed to go into the entire question. The reputation of the Airlines has gone down particularly after the present Minister has taken over, and late arrival of planes is an everyday matter. Its reputation has gone down.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: The reasons for the irregular timings and the flight

schedules not being operated according to the time-table are due to the fact that we are working with a very limited fleet. We are in a very difficult fleet position today. Therefore certain things are bound to happen. As for the other question, about the staffing and the management part of it, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings have already made certain recommendations and we are currently examining them and we will come to some conclusion. Later on I am sure when we implement the decisions arrived at by the Government on the recommendations so made, there would be improvement in the operational efficiency of the Indian Airlines Corporation as well as Air India.

RESUMPTION OF BY-ELECTIONS

*249. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of holding by-elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies which were suspended during the Indo-Pakistan conflict; and

(b) what are the views of the Election Commission in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Election Commission in whom the authority to hold bye-elections is vested under sections 149 and 150 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, do not propose to revoke their decision to postpone holding of bye-elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies. There are only 7 vacancies out of 500 seats in the House of the People and only 29 vacancies out of 3416 seats in the Legislative Assemblies of various States. Owing to the climatic conditions it is not practicable to hold bye-elections during the summer months and also during the rains in most parts of the country. It would also not be worthwhile to hold the bye-elections from October onwards in view of the close proximity of the General Elections next year.

The Government of India agree with the views of the Commission.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know whether it was not a fact that the general election in Orissa was held in the

last week of May or the first week of June, and how can the hon. Minister now take the plea that since the summer has set in they cannot hold 14 or 15 bye-elections in the country?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: The Election Commission has recommended that with which we agree.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The Election Commission has also recommended that general election should be held in Orissa.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: May I know whether it is a fact that recently there was a conference of Chief Electoral Officers from various States and whether it has been decided to hold the general elections in the third week of February, 1967? If so, may I know whether these elections will be held in the country on the same day or whether they would be on two or three different days?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: That does not arise out of this question. We can get the information if he wants.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: In view of the fact that there is no Indo-Pakistan conflict now, may I know whether the Government would reconsider the question of holding bye-elections particularly in view of the demand that the Prime Minister should be from the Lok Sabha? (*Interruption*). I would like to know whether the Government would advise that the Prime Minister would seek an election and therefore the elections would be held.

SHRI G. S. PATHAK: Government has no intention of reconsidering its decision. The decision really rests with the Election Commission. The Government holds the view that the Election Commission's view is right.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Then do not blame the weather.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The decision to continue the suspension of bye-elections is being justified on the ground that the summer has set in and that the rainy season is coming. I should like to know why the suspension was no!

away with immediately after the cessation of hostilities and particularly after the signing of the Tashkent Declaration. There was no summer, no rain, then. Is it because some Members of the Treasury Benches are afraid to face the election?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No insinuation.

SHRI G. S. PATHAK: The reason given by the hon. Member is not correct. No Member of the Treasury Benches was afraid of contesting any election. It was the decision of the Election Commission in which the Government concurred.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What about the first part of my question? Why did the Election Commission not decide to resume bye-elections immediately after the cessation of hostilities and particularly after the signing of the Tashkent Declaration? Did the Government tender advice to the Election Commission and, if so, what is the nature of that advice?

SHRI G. S. PATHAK: The Election Commission, as the hon. Member knows, is an independent body. There is no question of giving any advice to the Election Commission. The Commission holds its own views independently.

TESTING OF ATTA SOLD THROUGH RATION SHOPS

*250. SHRIMATI TARA RAM-CHANDRA SATHE: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state whether the atta for sale in Ration Shops in Delhi is tested before it is released from the Flour Mills; if so, where and at what point?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): Roller Flour Mills are regularly inspected by authorised Officers in pursuance of the provisions of the Wheat Roller Flour Mills (Licensing and Control) Order, 1957. These Officers draw samples of atta, as also of other wheat products, which are analysed in the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory. Besides atta, as also other wheat products, produced by the Roller Flour Mills, should conform to the speci-