

RESUMPTION OF AIR SERVICES BETWEEN  
INDIA AND PAKISTAN

\*160. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : †  
SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :  
SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the proposal made by Pakistan that the air services between India and Pakistan should be resumed has been accepted by the Government of India; and

(b) whether any proposal has been made by the Government of India in this regard and if so, what is that proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The question of resumption of civil air services between India and Pakistan is still in the stage of discussions along with other issues relating to normalisation of communications between the two countries.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : May I know whether the other services that are proposed to be resumed between India and Pakistan, about which there are discussions, include also sea-route services and river-route services ? Are they proposed to be resumed also ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Yes, Sir, and the other communications are inland water transport service over the Brahmaputra and then of course, air service and rail transport service and so on. All these modes of communication with Pakistan have to be resumed with Pakistan and these are the subject-matter of discussions between the representatives of the Government of Pakistan and our Government officials.

SHRI BIREN ROY : The hon. Minister has replied that the question of resumption of air services between India and Pakistan which are in abeyance is being discussed. We understand that the air services of Pakistan are over-flying India from West to East and these have already been allowed. In this case, may I ask why has not the Government taken the initiative for having

the air service which originates from West Pakistan to land first at the first air port, say Amritsar or Delhi, and then proceed after checking, to East Pakistan, and similarly from East Pakistan to land at Dum Dum and then proceed over India to West Pakistan ? In other words, you are allowing practically your defence potential to be undermined.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : These over-flight privileges are on a reciprocal basis. Now if we say that Pakistan's over-flight will be subject to certain conditions then it will mean that our over-flight schedule will also be subjected to similar conditions. These over-flights are on a reciprocal basis and they have been resumed now. Direct services between India and Pakistan are the subject matter of discussions now.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any proposals under active consideration at present for allowing over-flights to Pakistani aeroplanes over India and to Indian aeroplanes over Pakistan ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : I have already answered that question, Sir. We have agreed and over-flights are now taking place, subject to certain schedule and route stipulations.

SHRI BIREN ROY : Sir, my question is this. India's over-flights over Pakistan are to foreign countries, not from one part of India to another part. But Pakistan's over-flights are between its two wings, and we are still not, I should say, in a very friendly position at this time. And so military goods and other things can be transported. We are not objecting to this over-flying, but we want some checking.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Between Calcutta and Agartala over-flights are there. If we accept the proposition that is suggested now, then we shall be subjected to the same thing. These over-flights were there and they are now resumed. So nothing new is added at the present time.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : The hon. Minister just now said that the question of resumption of inland water transport service is also involved in the discussions with Pakistan. Will the hon. Minister say when these inland water transport services are going to be resumed ? This is very important be-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. R. M. Swamy.

cause all the employees of the inland navigation companies are laid off because these services are not being resumed. Will the hon. Minister kindly say when these services are going to be resumed, I mean these inland water transport services?

**SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY :** No, Sir, because they are linked with other issues. Discussions are there with Pakistan at the Secretaries' level. We had some discussions at the officials' level and further discussions will take place when our Secretary, Civil Aviation, goes to Karachi within the next few days. These discussions are at the officials' level and again when we meet at the Ministerial level we will continue the talks. But we cannot attempt to take the subject in isolation, this subject of inland water-transport. Of course, inland water transport is now in a bad shape unfortunately, and because there is no transport these launches are not plying between Assam and other places. But we cannot take the subject in isolation. It has to go along with the other subjects that we are discussing with Pakistan.

**SHRI A. D. MANI :** When India decided to resume the over-flight with Pakistan unilaterally, there were some critical comments in the U.S.A. Press that there was unwillingness on the part of India to resume air communication between India and Pakistan. Was any representation made formally or informally, by the United States of America for the resumption of these air services? I ask this because a lot of confusion was created by these comments.

**SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY :** We are not aware of this, Sir. At least my Department is not aware of it.

**SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are so many problems of transport and communication between India and Pakistan. Just imagine one night's travel from Sealdah took you to Darjeeling formerly. But now that is not possible. I am not, therefore, entering into the problems of communication between India and Pakistan in their totality. But my question is whether we have suggested to the Government of Pakistan just to restore the position as it existed, either air travel or road transport or water transport as they existed prior to the hostilities between India and Pakistan last year. My question is specific. We would like at once

to restore the position as it existed prior to the conflict between India and Pakistan last year, instead of combining too many issues to be settled all at once, because the people of Agartala . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Why because, Mr. Das? Your question is clear.

**SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY :** Yes, Sir. We did attempt to tackle the problem separately also but the Pakistan Government was also interested in tackling the problems together. The subjects they think more important may not be very important for us but they can only be dealt with in a bunch.

#### MERGER OF TOURIST CORPORATIONS

\*161. **SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :** †

**SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY :**

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL :**

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to merge the two public sector corporations catering to tourists and the transport undertaking in the Tourist Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new Corporation will have the name 'India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.' with an authorised capital of Rs. 5 crores. It would have a Board of Directors consisting of a non-official Chairman, a Managing Director and 12 other Directors. The Corporation will take up the following activities.

- (1) Production of publicity material;
- (2) Provision of evening entertainment including Son-et-Lumiere spectacles etc.
- (3) Shopping facilities.
- (4) Hotel accommodation.
- (5) Operation of tourist cars and coaches.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. S. Mariswamy.