

CHARTERING OF SPECIAL PLANE BY CENTRAL MINISTERS FOR JOURNEY TO SAURASHTRA

*135. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a special plane was chartered for the journey undertaken by the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Home Affairs to Saurashtra during the recent by-election at Rajkot and if so, from what source the expenditure involved, was met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS): The Minister of Home Affairs travelled to Rajkot and back by the normal IAC passenger flights. The Minister of Defence travelled to Bombay and back by IAC and from Bombay to Rajkot and back by a private plane. These journeys were not at Government cost.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Just now the Minister said that one of them travelled by a private plane. Is it a fact that a large number of private planes are allotted? I thought that all the plane services were run by the Government here.

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: It was private plane, it was not a Government plane at all.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: It was a Kalinga Airlines plane, Sir.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There are several private planes, Sir, and anybody is entitled to fly me. Of course, I did not travel on the private plane. But if someone makes an offer, I can accept it and Shri Dahyabhai Patel will not object to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It seems that the hon. Member does not want any flying in the private sector.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Is the Government aware of the fact that during this Rajkot by-election, the Swatantra Party used the transport of the Rajahs

and Maharajahs who are taking Privy Purses from the Government and that the Swatantra Party also took control of all the mobile trucks and buses? If so, what action has the Government proposed to take against the elected persons from that constituency?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: On a point of order. This is a rambling remark, this is not a question. I think the hon. Member should ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for reminding him. The Minister will decide whether he would answer it or not.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It does not require to be answered. Of course, the Rajahs took a very active part but part of the question of Tariq Saheb is rather exaggerated.

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

بتلائیں گے کہ جو راجہ مہاراجہ کانگریس میں ہیں ان کا تو کوئی نقصان نہیں کیا جائے گا -

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब बतलाएंगे कि जो राजा महाराजा कांग्रेस में हैं उनका तो कोई नुकसान नहीं किया जायेगा ?]

(No reply).

श्री गोड़े मुराहरि : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने यः बतलाया कि वे प्राइवेट प्लेन में गये थे । तो क्या ऐसे प्राइवेट प्लेन के लिए उन्होंने खर्चा दे दिया था या मुफ्त में गये थे ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : पहले तो मैं यह कह दूँ कि मैं प्राइवेट प्लेन में नहीं गया था, अगर आपने जवाब देखा होगा । इसलिए मुझे उसकी पक्की जानकारी तो नहीं है मगर दोस्त कोई ले जाय तो खर्चा नहीं लिया करता आम तौर से ।

†[] Hindi transliteration.