

drought in the river Hooghly the loading capacity of the vessels for carrying coal has been substantially reduced?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: This factor is common and, therefore, this has been duly taken into account.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know if the Government is planning to import any vessels from foreign countries so that a higher capacity of the vessels may be there?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There are certain proposals at present under consideration.

.SUBSIDY CLAIMED BY I.A.C. FOR FLIGHTS VIA JAIPUR

*542. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation has claimed some subsidy from the Government of Rajasthan for certain flights *via* Jaipur; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government of Rajasthan has declined to pay the subsidy and if so, for what reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: If the Government of Rajasthan refuses to give subsidy, will the Government discontinue the service?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: It is a hypothetical question.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that the Government is having a monopoly of air transport, how far is it justifiable to ask for subsidies to link such centres in the States? I think there should be no subsidy required or asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that your question or your view?

SHRI C. D. PANDE: How far is it justified in asking for subsidy?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There are certain sectors in which the Indian Airlines Corporation feels, as a commercial organisation, that there is not enough justification for running the service, and if some parties require the service to be run by the I.A.C., naturally the I.A.C. is justified in requesting them to make good the loss.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Will Government consider any application from people for running air transport if the I.A.C. cannot find it economical to run the service?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As the hon. Member is perhaps aware, there has been an amendment to the Air Corporation Act, and if any State Government is interested in running some scheduled services and an application is made, that will be considered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it the policy of the Government that in such matters of public utility services, every single service or every single line must in itself be self-supporting or that it should be closed? In that case, why is not the matter being considered from the angle of public utility because the losses can be made up by other lines?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The hon. Member should not forget that the I.A.C. organisation is run as a public utility -cum-commercial organisation. And as far as possible, the I.A.C. must meet its expenditure. So, where there is any route which is obviously uneconomical, any commercial organisation would not like to run that.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: In view of the fact that this is a most important tourist centre and is also a growing industrial centre, the view that has been just mentioned by the hon. Minister should not apply to such cases.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The hon. Member expresses his opinion.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: My question is whether the criterion of making profits by the I.A.C. applies for services to centres of tourist attraction and of growing industries?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: All these factors are taken into consideration by the I A.C. while deciding their route pattern.

FINDINGS OF INQUIRY INTO TRAIN ACCIDENT NEAR ICHCHHAPURAM

*543. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the findings of the departmental inquiry held in connection with the railway accident near Ichchhapuram station on the South Eastern Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY) : This case is *sub-judice*. The two Sub Permanent Way Inspectors and the two flagmen have been arrested and the case is under trial in the Behrampur (Ganjam) Court.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: My question simply is whether there was any departmental enquiry or not and if there was any, what the report was. I do not mind whether it is *sub judice* or it is not *sub judice*. I want to know whether you have set up an Enquiry Committee and if so, what its report is.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: There was a departmental enquiry. When the matter is *sub judice*, we cannot discuss what the departmental enquiry is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think the hon. Member understands it.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: I want to know the facts. I do not want . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please proceed to the next question.

SUGGESTIONS FOR OPENING, AN. ENQUIRY OFFICE AT ITARSI

*544. SHRI NIRANJAN. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be-pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions and/or complaints with regard to the opening of an Enquiry Office at Itarsi station; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action: thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of provision of a separate Enquiry Office at Itarsi was examined but was found not to be justified.

SHRI NIRANJAN: SINGH: What is the criterion?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The-criterion is the amount of originating traffic and the number of passengers that come, land there and make enquiries. As a matter of fact, the-provision there is that the assistant station master and one of the booking clerks are to attend¹ to these calls. In fact, there are not very many P. & T. connections either at Itarsi. The assistant station master and the booking clerk are able to deal with the enquiries.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know whether the Government is aware that neither the station master nor the booking clerk is giving satisfactory replies to the passengers because the booking clerk does not know all the facts and the station master is always on the move at the yard? It is the greatest centre of the railway. The Minister said that it is not the greatest centre. I say that it is the greatest centre of the railway. Will the Government again, consider it?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Yes, Sir, we shall reconsider it.