

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : आदमी भी शराब का इस्तेमाल करता है और बगैर इस्तेमाल किये भी जिन्दा रह सकता है । लेकिन मैंने इस बात का अध्ययन नहीं किया कि बगैर शराब के जानवर जिन्दा रह सकते हैं या नहीं । अगर मानवीय मेम्बर का इस में सहयोग होगा तो जांच की जा सकती है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Obviously it would be difficult for the Minister to give any assurance on behalf of the animals.

*722. [The questioner (Shri *Dhananjay Mohanty*) was absent For answer, vide cols. 3943-44 infra.]

PROPOSED TEAM OF EXPERTS TO STUDY
ASSAM'S FLOOD PROBLEM

*723. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has approached the Central Government for deputing a team of experts to study Assam's flood problems and suggest long-term measures for controlling them; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER
(SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Chief Engineers of the Central Water and Power Commission, have been deputed to the State for making an on-the-spot study of the flood situation and render all assistance to the State authorities in the matter.

SHRI R. N. KAKATI: May I know whether the Assam Government have submitted any long-term flood control scheme to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and, if so, when it was submitted and what action has been taken by the Ministry?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this flood protection programme is a continuing programme. The Assam Government has been taking measures both in the First and Second Plan periods and the work is continuing, but as far as long-term measures are concerned, it has to be thought of as a continuation of the works that are already being carried out. The Chief Minister of Assam, when he was here some time back, discussed this question very thoroughly with the Central Water and Power Commission authorities and with the Chief Engineer (Floods) there, and certain steps were agreed to be taken.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister has said that flood protection measures have been taken in the Second Five Year Plan, how in spite of the measures taken to prevent this calamity from floods the destruction in Bihar, U.P. and Assam was so vast?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The question now embraces other States also. It is true we have been taking certain measures, and for the information of the House I can say the following: In Assam 1900 miles of embankments have been constructed on the main rivers, Brahmaputra and Barak, and their tributaries. Since the inception of the flood control programme in 1954, 169 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 1106-22 lakhs have been approved, out of which 83 schemes costing Rs. 634.44 lakhs, have been completed benefiting an area of over 7 lakh acres. There were other measures also taken. So, Sir, it will be seen that sufficient measures have been taken. Still, if the flood havoc is there, we have to take other measures too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Elements are stronger than the measures.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: DO I understand, Sir, that this calamity—I am talking specially about floods—is also due to the changes in the course*

of certain rivers, like the river Buri Gandak flowing in the districts of Gorakhpur and Deoria?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir; rivers in the sub-Himalayan region do change their courses often, and that causes a good deal of havoc.

EFFECT OF FOREIGN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON AIR INDIA TRAFFIC

*724. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the reduction in the passenger traffic of Air India since the recent imposition of restrictions on foreign travel; and

(b) what steps, if any, are being taken to minimise the loss or increase the earnings by other means?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Air-India have reported that the uplift ex-Bombay showed a decline of approximately 15-20 per cent during the first fortnight of July, 1962.

(b) It is too early to assess the loss that the Corporation will suffer as a result of these restrictions. In order, however, to increase the earnings, the Air-India are concentrating on traffic which does not require a 'P' form for purchase of tickets i.e., in respect of foreign nationals temporarily residing in India; and are also making special promotional efforts abroad.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I ask whether, in view of the additional space, more officers and more directors and their relations will be travelling in the Air India planes as they seem to have been doing so often?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very difficult to reply about the future, to say what it will be.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that the present regulations have affected Air India traffic

as far as the Indian nationals are concerned, may I know whether the matter has been taken up with the Reserve Bank so that unnecessary delay is avoided in the issue of clearance certificates and in order to facilitate the booking of passages by Indians?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: All steps have been taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, Sir, I would like to know, because I know that in some cases it takes a lot of time. If the applications are made here in Delhi, they are sent to Bombay, and it takes time. People do not have so much time to wait, those who want to travel abroad; I would like to know whether such problems have been taken up by Air India in its own interests.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: We have no such information.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know, Sir, if there is any proposal that this extra space which we have got on the Air-India planes should be utilised by the internal passengers between Bombay and Delhi and Calcutta and Bombay?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, the planes going from Bombay to London, how can that capacity be utilised in the country? There is a proposal to utilise a few seats that may be available between Bombay and Delhi.

SHRI A. D. MANI: What has been the percentage of fall in traffic on Government account after the new rates came into force? I would like a comparison with the figures of the previous year, Sir.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I cannot give the figures. I require notice.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know if the hon. Minister has any information whether the foreign companies are also suffering losses in the manner in which the Air-India is suffering?