

implementing this scheme very early, because there would be a total break-down of railway communications and water supply?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Sir, Government are fully alive to the needs of West Bengal in regard to this scheme, and I can assure my friends in this House that whatever is necessary for them will be done in due course.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : क्या यह बात सच है कि जब प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब कलकत्ता गये थे तो इस बारे में कोई निदर्शन हुआ था और क्या प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब से कुछ निवेदन किया गया था। उसका क्या जवाब दिया गया है, कृपा करके क्या आप बतला सकते हैं ?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: We have no information about that, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I want to ask one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more question. Dr. Gour.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then, Sir, I give notice now and here that this question be discussed, because I think, Sir, the Central Government is deliberately doing this thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Dr. Gour.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

*132. **DR. R. B. GOUR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to offer the Chairmanship of the Indian Airlines Corporation to a non-official; and

(b) if so, whether any offer has been made to any person?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I know, Sir, the qualifications of the person who is sought to be appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Sir, there is no question of qualifications for a person who is to be the Chairman, but since he is going to preside over an aviation company, he should know something about aviation and he should otherwise be a respectable person.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What are the reasons for changing the present person?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: He is an official, and now he has gone to the other department. The Estimates Committee has recommended that as far as possible, a non-official should be appointed as Chairman.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that an offer has been made to Mr. J. R. D. Tata to accept the chairmanship of this body?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is a fact. I do not call it an offer. But Mr. J. R. D. Tata has been requested to accept the chairmanship.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Has he accepted the offer?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is under negotiation, Sir. But mostly we are hoping that he will accept it.

PAKISTAN PLANE CRASH AT PALAM

*133. **SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who died in the Pakistan plane crash at Palam in the month of May, 1958; and