

(b) Fifty-four villages. Rs. 25 lakhs approximately.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : दूसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजना की अवधि में कितने गांवों में बिजली लग जायेगी ?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The information at my disposal, Sir, is that out of 54 villages the electrification of the first 26 villages is to be covered under the first phase of the scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.3 lakhs.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : इन गांवों को बिजली-लाइट, रोशनी के लिये मिलेगी या अपने छोटे मोटे उद्योग चलाने के लिये भी मिलेगी ?

श्री एस. के. पाटिल : वह तो रोशनी और छोटे मोटे उद्योग के लिये ही है। लेकिन वह काम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का है। उनके इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के जरिये वह होता है, जिसके ऊपर हमारा कुछ काबू नहीं है।

SURVEY REPORT OF THE DUGARPUR-BANSWADA-RATLAM RAILWAY LINE

*45. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the survey report of the Dugarpur-Banswada-Ratlam railway line; and

(b) if so, when the report will be taken up for consideration by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Not yet.

(b) The report will be examined after it is received but this line has not been included in the 842 miles of new lines approved by the Planning

Commission for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, by what time this survey report is expected?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: By October 1957.

OFF-LOADING OF INDIAN PASSENGERS AT THE PALAM AIRPORT BY A CERTAIN AIRLINE

*46. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the incident that occurred at the Palam Airport on May 25, 1957, when some Indian passengers were not allowed by a certain airline to board their plane;

(b) what steps have so far been taken by Government in this matter; and

(c) whether the airline concerned have since given any explanation in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

A report was published in some daily newspapers on the 4th and 5th of June 1957 that an Indian lady and her children had not been allowed to travel by Air France service on which they were duly booked. Enquiries were immediately instituted by the Director General of Civil Aviation from the airport authorities and Air France.

These enquiries indicate that on 24th May 1957, passages were booked for London for Shrimati Chanan Kaur

and her four sons by Air France service leaving Delhi on the early morning of 26th May 1957. The party reported at the Connaught Place booking office of Air France on the evening of the 25th May 1957. Air France have reported that they advised the passengers to postpone their journey as the children's clothes were dirty and likely to cause discomfort to other passengers. The passenger coach accordingly left the City office for the airport without Shrimati Chanan Kaur and her children.

Shrimati Chanan Kaur and her family left for London by a KLM service on 27th May 1957.

Air France have explained that the action they took in advising Shrimati Chanan Kaur to postpone her journey was in accordance with their conditions of carriage and it was with great reluctance that they took this decision in the interests of other passengers. They have also produced photostat copies of letters sent to them by Shrimati Chanan Kaur and her husband, Piara Singh, stating that the latter have neither any complaint nor any claims against Air France. They, i.e. Air France, have regretted that their action has led to some misunderstanding and have further expressed their deep regret at the occurrence which is the first of its kind in the course of their service of 33 years in India. They have also mentioned that their endeavour has always been to serve their clients to their entire satisfaction and assured that this will remain their first objective in all their future dealings.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether the Government did ascertain as to whether the clothes of the children were really dirty as stated in the statement?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I do not know, Sir, what the hon. Member wanted the Government to do. The incident took place on the 25th of May. It was reported on the 4th of June for

the first time in any newspaper. The lady concerned says that the children had dirty clothes. How after the 4th of June we could find out whether the children were cleanly dressed or not. This is beyond the capacity of any Government.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Why I say this is because there is a statement published in the *Times of India* of June the 5th that the passengers were said to be wearing a very clean dress made out of coarse Indian material, and there is also the statement that the passengers pointed out to the Manager that they should not be discriminated against simply for being clothed in the Indian dress. When some such statement is published in the papers, is it not the duty of the Government to ascertain by some way or another whether there was any truth in all those statements that were published?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: No evidence whatever has been forthcoming for any of those statements, and the statement by the lady concerned that the children were not very properly clothed seemed to us to clinch the matter.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Sir, at least I have not been able to understand one thing. Was it the Indian dress—dhoti or kurta—or was it that the clothes were dirty, i.e. not properly washed and cleaned? What was the objection of the Air France?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: According to the reports available, it was the dirtiness of the clothes, and not whether they were European or Indian.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware that immediately after the incident, when the matter had been raised in the press, a representative of the Air France was sent to contact the passengers concerned abroad, whether in France or in England? It was only after that that certain other statements appeared from that quarter.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I think the first part of the hon. Member's question is not correct. The incident was not immediately reported. It occurred on the 25th of May and the first report appeared on the 4th of June. As to whether the Air France sent anybody specially from India to England to investigate this, we have no information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware that certain instructions were issued to some lawyers or friends here in order to take up this case with the Government and seek redress from the Government?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: We have heard this, but no lawyer has been forthcoming, and when we tried to contact such lawyers, nobody was available.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, what steps did the Government take and whether the Government instructed its Embassies abroad to contact the family and get the proper report from them?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: After the statement of the lady it was not considered to be such an important matter as to move the Embassies and enter into any diplomatic relations with them.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इसमें प्रवासियों का क्या बयान है? दूसरी चीज़ में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि कम्पनी ने प्रवासियों के साथ जो आचरण किया, वह, नम्रता का नहीं था?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, according to the letter of the lady,—he has asked what was the statement of the passenger—the passenger has said that she was not ill-treated and she had no complaints.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that it was on account of the odour emanating from the persons going to travel. May I know from the hon. Minister whether several European passengers who travel by aeroplanes and emit similar odour are not deplaned?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I know, Sir, that there has been a strong feeling even in the other House, and I can very well realise that the Members of this House feel deeply hurt over the incident which took place. As it appeared in the papers, there have been statements and counter statements. Well, I did not feel quite satisfied over the whole incident, and therefore I requested my colleague, Mr. Kabir, to get into touch with the Air France people, and he did so. It is very difficult to say whether the statement given by the lady is correct or the other version given in the press is correct. But if we go into those matters, it will create further complications. So, Mr. Kabir and our D.G.C.A. met the Air France people and expressed that people felt hurt about it, and we told them that the whole thing has appeared in a very bad and awkward way and it was necessary that some form of regret should be expressed by them, and they have, in a good letter and in a good spirit, expressed their regret over this incident. I would therefore request that this matter be treated as closed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I am glad that he has elucidated this point. But how is it that when this matter was being discussed and statements were being issued from the Air France, the Government did not consider it necessary to direct its own agency to directly contact the lady and the family to get the first hand statements from them? What is the reason behind it?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: If the hon. Member wants to know how they took that statement from the lady, what answer can I give to that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the 27th the lady left this country.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not asking him to give us the idea as to how the Air France got that statement, but the statement by the Air France is not to be much relied upon. In that event it was necessary for the Government to contact somebody and verify that statement through its own agency abroad.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What the Minister says is that you have explained your point and they have expressed their regret.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I myself felt it. Perhaps I would have agreed with what the Air France stated if they had not taken that statement from the lady. My doubts and suspicions arose when I came to know about that statement, and I somehow feel that it was not quite correct on their part . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Very good horse-sense.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: . . . to have taken that statement from the lady.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Do these Airlines authorities possess any special licence to determine the tidiness or otherwise of the dress of the passengers?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: There are international rules.

WAITING LISTS FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

*47. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any waiting lists in respect of telephone connections are maintained for the cities of Lucknow, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Chandigarh and Jaipur;

(b) if so, what is the present number of applicants on these waiting lists and in which years such lists were first maintained?

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in the near future to provide telephone connections to such applicants; and

(d) how much time it will take to achieve that objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes.

(b) The number of applications on the waiting lists along with year in which they were first made are as below:—

Lucknow	357	1956
Bhopal	Nil	..
Hyderabad	1217	1956
Chandigarh	Nil	..
Jaipur	Nil	..

(c) At Lucknow the waiting list has developed mainly in a new area for which underground cables have to be laid. Arrangements are being made to lay these cables. The capacity of the existing telephone exchange is also being extended from 4,000 to 5,500 lines by installing 1500 lines extension. The telephone system at Hyderabad is being extended by 1900 lines. Telephones at Bhopal, Chandigarh and Jaipur are being provided within 3 months of the receipt of applications.

(d) It will take 12 months time in respect of Lucknow and 18 months time in respect of Hyderabad to achieve the object of giving telephone connections to all these applicants.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know the figure in respect of Jaipur as to how many are pending?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Nil.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: As regards Jaipur, may I know how many new applications have been accepted?