

RAJYA SABHA

Monday 25th March, 1957

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

EMERGENCY LANDING OF PRIME MINISTER'S PLANE NEAR RAICHUR

*20. PANDIT ALGU RAI SHASTRI: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plane carrying Shri Jawaharlal Nehru from Bangalore to Raipur was fully checked before it took off on the 26th February, 1957;

(b) whether the wartime *kutcha* airstrip near Raichur where emergency landing was made, is proposed to be constructed as a *pucca* airstrip for use in times of emergency; and

(c) whether Sq/Ldr. R. A. Rufus has been adequately rewarded for his great service?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANIZATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. .

(c) The question is under consideration.

पंडित अलगू राय शास्त्री : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि वी० आई० पी० के जो प्लेन्स होते हैं, फ्लाइट से पहले उनकी चेकिंग का क्या इन्तजाम होता है या क्या प्रकाशन लिया जाता है ?

श्री महावीर त्यागी : जो वी० आई० पी० प्लेन्स होते हैं, उनको खास तौर से, जैसा कि और प्लेन्स में भी होता है, फ्लाइट से पहले पूरी तरह से चेक किया जाता है और बाकायदा उनके ओवरहाल होने का और फर्स्ट क्लास कंडीशन होने का सर्टिफिकेट हासिल कर लिया जाता है ।

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श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को एक चेतावनी मान कर क्या यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि यह निश्चित कर लिया जाय कि भविष्य में प्राइम मिनिस्टर तथा अन्य ऐसे ही इम्पार्टेंट लोगों को बिना चार इंजिन के हवाई जहाज पर न ले जाया जाय?

श्री महावीर त्यागी : ऐसा फ़ैसला करना जरूरी नहीं है । हवाई जहाज की दुर्घटनाएँ चार इंजिन में भी हो जाती हैं । इस लिये इससे दुर्घटनाओं को रोकना तो मुश्किल होगा । जो प्रिकेशन अब तक लिया जाता है, वह यह है कि हवाई जहाज जाने से पहले पूरी तरह से चेक कर लिया जाय । यह हवाई जहाज विशेष रूप से एक बहुत अच्छा हवाई जहाज है । जैसा कि और हवाई जहाजों में आग वगैरह लगने का जब खतरा होता है तो एक लाल रोशनी आती है, उसके अलावा इसमें एक और इन्तजाम था कि लाल रोशनी के बाद फिर एक भोंपू की आवाज आये और वह आवाज बदस्तूर आई । इसमें हवाई जहाज का कोई कसूर नहीं था, पर किसी तरह से यह दुर्घटना हो गई ।

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask my hon. friend whether he is quite satisfied with the method of inspection that is adopted in such cases?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Yes, Sir. बहुत सख्ती के साथ इन्स्पेक्शन किया जाता है । They are very punctilious because the lives of pilots also are involved. Each of them takes enough care to see that every little thing is looked into.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I also ask in regard to part (c) of this question whether the consideration will extend not only to the pilot himself but to all the members of the crew, who were equally responsible for the safety of the Prime Minister?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, in fact such occurrences generally occur and all these pilots and their teams are accustomed to just taking precautions for safeguarding against such accidents, but in this particular case, because the 'cargo' was very important, because it was the Prime Minister and his party, on sentimental grounds also the Government is considering that these pilots and their party are amply rewarded.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has it been seen where the fault lay in this particular plane?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: A board has been constituted for looking into this matter and to assist the board the Government of Russia has also deputed two officers to find out as to where the fault lay.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has this plane since been set in working order?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Not yet; the engine that is there is being changed.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Whenever the Prime Minister goes by air and the plane is tested by an expert or experts, do the Government think it advisable that the expert or experts, whoever tests the plane, should go with the Prime Minister so that the plane can be taken proper care of?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: I can assure the House that every possible precaution is always taken.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS FOR EASING
FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION IN INDIA

*21. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to promote investments from foreign countries in India in order to ease the foreign exchange position of the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): The House is aware of the incentives that exist already in this country for the investment of foreign capital. Government are generally of the view that these incentives are attractive enough to encourage further foreign investment in this country.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know the exact steps that are being taken now, after the matter has been brought again to the notice of the Government in regard to the foreign exchange difficulty? What are the practical measures taken, 1, 2, 3, to influence foreign investment in India?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, there have not been any definite new measures taken after the new difficulties of foreign exchange had arisen, but we are encouraging private parties for arrangements of deferred payments or arrangements with the foreign private capital for investment here.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, which foreign countries or which private agencies are the Government encouraging to get foreign help now? With which countries are they negotiating for this purpose?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: With all countries; no particular country is specially favoured.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: If the Government were negotiating with all countries, what are the steps that have been taken so far to get money from France? Or, what is the extent of help that the French Government is willing to render or the French banks are willing to render to the Government of India?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That particular matter is also under consideration.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. the Finance Minister whether, if foreign invest-