

**Cancellation of Air India Express Flights originating from Kerala**

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, the strike by a section of Air India pilots has entered the fifteenth day. Till now, the Government of India has not taken serious and bold initiatives to end the deadlock. Most of the international flights have been cancelled. Even in the domestic sector, the services of many flights have been cancelled.

Sir, one of the victims of these cancellations of international flights are the Keralites in Gulf countries. Majority of the Air India Express service to Gulf countries from Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode have been cancelled. The people living in the Gulf countries have to come back for vacations, and in Kerala, we are going to have the academic year re-started in the first week of June. Many people who have gone, with their families, to the Gulf countries are not able to come back.

Sir, due to the non-availability of flights, many people have lost jobs because they were not able to report for duty on the allotted date. And, exploiting this grave situation, the private airlines are squeezing people; they have doubled and trebled their fares on flights to the Gulf countries.

Therefore, I would request the Government of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to take some bold initiatives for making alternative arrangements to help people in the Gulf countries to return to Kerala. Every day, we hear that the Civil Aviation Ministry would take some action, but no tangible results have been seen till today. It is a very urgent matter. The Government must take note of it and take action.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Government will have to...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, it is a very serious matter. It was already....(*Interruptions*) It is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the Minister is here. Let him...(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Only the former Minister is here! (*Interruptions*) Do you want the former Minister to reply? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it is their responsibility to see to it ...(*Interruptions*) The Minister should reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the Minister is here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, action must be taken against those who provoked the strike. ..(*Interruptions*)... No accountability has been fixed on them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the Minister must reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, the passengers are suffering, (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAPAN KUMAR SEN: That conflict is seen in the intention of the Government who want to hand it over to...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: It is a very serious matter.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: For how long can this go on? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, please ask the Minister to respond. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I have a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): What is it about?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It is about the business of the House. Sir, on one side the Government is not coming for a debate and the Minister does not even have a responsibility to come to Rajya Sabha and make a statement on the state of affairs of Air India. Is this the respect to the House? Strike is going on all throughout the Session. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): This is a statement, not a point of order....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Doesn't the Government have a responsibility to come and make a statement in the House? ...(*Interruptions*)... Is this the respect to the House? ...(*Interruptions*)... You are not having a debate on civil aviation. ...(*Interruptions*)... You are not coming out with a statement. ...(*Interruptions*)... What is this? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: How can you continue like that?  
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You expressed your views....(Interruptions)... Now, you take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Now, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: How can you continue like that?  
...(interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You expressed your views. ...(Interruptions)... Now, you take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Now, please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Let me continue. ...(Interruptions)... Let me proceed. ...(Interruptions)... Civil Aviation Minister is not here....(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Shri Vayalar Ravi is sitting here. ...(Interruptions)... He is the former Minister. ...(Interruptions)... Ask him to respond. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You made your point.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, ask the Government to respond.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: How can it continue like that? ...(Interruptions)...  
Is there any Government? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, we are on a larger issue. ...(Interruptions)... See the plight of passengers at Delhi Airport, at Mumbai, at Dubai, at London, at New York. ...(Interruptions)... There is no response from the Parliament. ...(Interruptions)... It is a serious issue. ...(Interruptions)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): Now, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठिए, प्लीज।...(व्यवधान)...रवि शंकर जी, आप बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)...तपन जी, आप बैठिए...(व्यवधान)...अब आप बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)...अब आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)... You made your point. ...(Interruptions)... Now, let me proceed with the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Let me proceed with the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... You made your point. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, there is no response from the Government. ...(Interruptions)... We want a response from the Government. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I cannot direct the Government; you know the rule.... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAPAN KUMAR SEN: We are really concerned with this issue ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I cannot direct the Government....*(Interruptions)*... It is up to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the Government should make a statement today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, there are occasions when the Chair directs... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will be forced to adjourn if you don't allow me to proceed....*(Interruptions)*... You have made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Chair also accepts that this is a serious matter....*(Interruptions)*... But it is for the Government to respond, if they want. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not in my hands. ...*(Interruptions)*... BAC was there....*(Interruptions)*... You could have raised it there. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not in my hands. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is to be discussed has been decided by the BAC. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Minister respond. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, in the Business Paper of today, there is a debate slotted for the Ministry of Civil Aviation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Rudy, I don't allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:\*

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: रुडी जी, आप मुझे बोलने दो।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बहुत बोल रहे हो।...*(व्यवधान)*... हम भी वैसा बोल सकते थे, जैसे आप बोल रहे हो।...*(व्यवधान)*... आपको Deputy Leader बनना है, बन जाओ...*(व्यवधान)*... लेकिन, हाउस को डिस्टर्ब मत करो।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप अपनी पॉलिटिक्स के चक्कर में बहुत बोलते हो।...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Only what the Minister says will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:\*

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\* No recorded.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please allow the Minister.  
...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: पहले आप मेरी बात सुनिए...(व्यवधान)...आपको जो बनना हो, बनो...(व्यवधान)...लेकिन, हाउस को डिस्टर्ब मत करो।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please allow the Minister.  
...(Interruptions)... Mr. Rudy, please take your seat...(Interruptions)... Please, listen to the Minister. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सर, लंच के बाद Minister of Civil Aviation यहां होंगे। उस समय आप अपनी बात उनसे कह सकते हैं और पूछ भी सकते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okey. Minister is coming.  
...(Interruptions)...Now, Shri Prabhat Jha. (Interruptions)...

#### Scarcity of water resources and depletion of water level in the country

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जिस मसले को उठा रहा हूँ, वह पानी का मसला है। देश की सारी नदियां सूख रही हैं और राजधानी में ही नहीं, बल्कि भारत के 18 राज्यों और 218 जिलों में भू-जल स्तर बहुत नीचे गिर रहा है। इस साल यमुना नदी समय से पहले सूख गई है। नदी की धार टूटने का सबसे अधिक प्रतिकूल प्रभाव देश की राजधानी पर पड़ेगा, जहां पेयजल के लिए पूरा हाहाकार मचने वाला है। हरियाणा में भी भू-जल स्तर बहुत नीचे चला गया है। देश की राजधानी पेयजल के लिए यमुना नदी पर सबसे ज्यादा निर्भर है। नदी की धार सूख गई इसलिए दिल्ली को पर्याप्त पानी नहीं मिल सकेगा।

इसके साथ ही, उत्तर प्रदेश व हरियाणा में भू-जल के स्तर में तेजी से गिरावट हो रही है, जिससे उपजाऊ जमीन में सिंचाई के लिए जल संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है। सिंचाई विभाग के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक यमुना में पेयजल संकट अप्रैल में शुरू हो गया है, जब कि यह जून, जुलाई के चिलचिलाती गर्मी में होता है और फिर बाद में नदी के प्रवाह में धीमी गति दर्ज होती है, लेकिन इस बार तो नदी पूरी तरह से सूख चुकी है। यमुना नदी का सुखना भविष्य के लिए अच्छे संकेत नहीं हैं। यदि अगले तीन-चार महीने में नदी की स्थिति ऐसी ही रही, तो पानी के लिए सभी जगह हाहाकार मचेगा।

राजधानी में पानी की इतनी ज्यादा किल्लत और हाहाकार मचने वाली है, लेकिन यहां पर सरकार द्वारा या सरकार के किसी महकमे के द्वारा किसी भी तरह को कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की जा रही है। यह हम सब के लिए चिंता का विषय है।

जल संचयन से इसको काफी हद तक कम किया गया है। सच्चाई यह है कि अकेले वर्षा जल के संरक्षण से ही दिल्ली के 50 फीसदी लोगों को जरूरत भी का पानी उपलब्ध हो सकता है, जब कि आज भी पूर्वी व पश्चिम दिल्ली के कई क्षेत्रों में लोगों को पानी तक नसीब नहीं होता है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय भू-जल बोर्ड का मानना है कि दिल्ली में भू-जल स्तर निरंतर गिर रहा है। बोर्ड के मुताबिक यमुना से सटे पूर्वी दिल्ली के कुछ इलाकों को