

been reported that the Alliance Airlines, a subsidiary company of Air India, is going to stop its operation from 1st January, 2013 from Umroi-Shillong in the State of Meghalaya for reasons best known to the Government. I would like to inform the House that Shillong is the only Airport which is operational in Meghalaya and stopping of operation of Alliance Airlines at Shillong will cause immense hardships to the people of Meghalaya, besides affecting economic activities in the State. The next nearest Airport to Shillong is Guwahati which is already congested. Apart from this, journey by road takes a very long time due to difficult terrain and heavy traffic on the Guwahati-Shillong highway. In addition to causing hardships, this act of discontinuing the Airline operation will have an adverse effect on tourism.

I, therefore, request that the operation of Alliance Airlines should be continued, and, as a matter of fact, another non-functional Airport of Meghalaya at Tura-Baljek should also be made operational.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : As I said, before the House adjourns, we always allow you to read. It can be allowed today also, provided the House is sitting. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Anil Desai. I have no time to argue with you. If you want to lay it now, lay it; otherwise, you can do it later.

**Demand for waiving income tax on prize money won by Sonali Mukherjee,
a victim of acid attack on humanitarian grounds**

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal) : Sir, a Thomas Reuters survey in 2011 says that India is the fourth most dangerous place in the world for women to live in as women can be easy victims to cruel forms of violence and disfigurement such as acid attacks. With acid being cheap and easily available, such attacks in the country are on a rise. The story of Sonali Mukherjee, who had acid thrown on her face while she was asleep, has captured the conscious of the nation. This shameful incident occurred in the year 2003 in the State of Jharkhand. Since then laws regarding such heinous crimes have been relooked. But for Sonali who was 29 years of age at the time of the attack, it has been a tough battle.

Sir, I am happy to report that Sonali won a prize money amounting to Rs. 25 lakhs from the popular television programme. Kaun Banega Crorepati, hosted by actor Amitabh Bachchan. However, under Section 194B of the Income Tax Act, 30 per cent of the tax is deducted on any prize money in excess of Rs. 10,000 and other winnings from games, lotteries, etc. As a rarest of rare cases, on humanitarian grounds, kindly consider waiving the customary 30 per cent tax assessed on the prize money.