

*112. [The questioner (Shri Amar Singh) was absent for answer *vide* page 46-47 *infra*.]

*113. [The questioner (Shri Dina Nath Mishra) was absent for answer *vide* page 47 *infra*.]

Air Service between Agartala and Kolkata

*114. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days a week the aircrafts run between Agartala and Kolkata in the morning;

(b) whether Government are aware that the people of Tripura travelling by the evening flights cannot avail of the connecting train or place; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make available aircraft in the morning for journey between Agartala and Kolkata everyday?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Due to work on the runway at Agartala and scheduling constraints, all Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flight are presently scheduled to operate in the afternoon. Airports Authority of India has now permitted morning flights to/from Agartala on a limited basis. Accordingly Alliance Air has commenced operations of additional morning services on Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata route on need basis, which will be reviewed further once all restrictions on runway availability are removed.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply has stated that presently morning services are made on need basis. But, my submission is that there is need of morning services on each and every day because journey by road to Kolkata is extremely difficult from Tripura, which is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides, or on all four sides, so to say. So, is hon. Minister aware that as there are no regular morning flights, the following problems, serious in nature, are cropping up almost everyday? Number one.

श्री सभापति : आप नंबर वन ही पूछिए ।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I am just exposing the problems arising out of lack of morning flight. The problems are: the patients cannot get admitted in Kolkata on the same day because they come only at night. The second problem is that national newspapers cannot reach the readers of Tripura the same day because the flight goes after evening. The passengers booked for train journey cannot avail connecting trains. So, why are the people destined to face such awkward situations? What steps is the hon. Minister going to take for redressing their problems?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI: Sir, it is a fact that there are no morning services on a regular basis to Agartala, and, this is being done because there is some work going on as far as the runway is concerned which requires rescheduling. But I can assure the Member that we will consider rescheduling from the summer schedule for introducing a flight in the morning hours also.

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, मिल गया आपको अच्छा जवाब ।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, my second supplementary is(Interruptions)

श्री सभापति : नहीं, अब सैंकेड सप्लीमेंट्री मत कीजिए नहीं तो जो आपको आश्वासन दिया है वह वापस ले लेंगे।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, at present, the flights are also not regular. Time schedule is not maintained. We cannot come to Delhi on the same day. Flights are delayed everyday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Next question.

*115. [The questioner (Shri Ramachandra Khuntia) was absent. For answer *vide* page 47-48 *infra*.]

*116. [The questioner (Shri V. Narayanasamy) was absent. For answer *vide* page 48 *infra*.]

हिमाचल प्रदेश के कांगड़ा जिले में गैस की खोज

*117. **श्री कृपाल परमार :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के कांगड़ा जिले के ज्वालामुखी में ज्वलनशील गैस की खोज का कार्य विगत अनेक वर्षों से चल रहा है और हाल ही में अत्यधिक गैस होने के संकेत मिले हैं जिससे स्थानीय नागरिकों में भय पैदा हो रहा है,