

Resumption of flights at subsidised fares to Shimla, Kullu and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ (Himachal Pradesh): Madam, for the past five-six years, the Indian Airlines has stopped operating its flights to Shimla, Kullu and Dharmshala. It is causing a great inconvenience to the people and the tourists intending to visit Himachal Pradesh.

Madam, Himachal Pradesh is a State with a great potential for tourism. Strategically also, it is important because it has a long border with Tibet-China. Dharmshala is the temporary abode of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and thousands of his devotees, foreign tourists and others, throng to this place. Kullu-Manali, Dalhousi and Kasauli are world-known tourist attractions. Shimla, besides being the State Capital, is also one of the most popular tourist resorts in the northern part of India.

Besides resumption of flights to the area, it is also necessary that the airports at Shimla, Bhuntar (Kullu) and Kangra (Dharmshala) are made fully-equipped to receive bigger aircraft than the present small 18-seaters.

Madam, Himachal Pradesh and the North-Eastern States are on the same footing from all angles, except that Himachal Pradesh is a peaceful State. Air-travel fares to the North-Eastern States are much cheaper -- since they are subsidised -- than those for destinations in Himachal Pradesh.

I request the Government of India and the Indian Airlines to resume flights to Shimla, Kullu and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and also subsidise the air-travel to Himachal Pradesh so that the disparity between the two similarly-situated parts of the country is removed.

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR (Himachal Pradesh): Madam, I associate myself with what my hon. colleague has mentioned.

Demand for making provision of punishment in law for media persons who create disharmony in society

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr., Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wish to bring before the House a case of censure of the two leading dailies of Gujarat, *Gujarat Samachar* and *Gujarat Sandesh*, by

the Press Council of India. The Press Council of India, a watch-dog for newspapers, set up under an Act of Parliament, has censured these two leading dailies of Gujarat for publishing false reports on the last year's communal carnage in Gujarat.

The full Council meeting held in Delhi endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Committee constituted by the Council. It is a tragedy that the Press Council of India does not have any powers to punish the defaulting media persons whose misconduct had brought havoc in Gujarat last year.

I urge on the Government of India to devise a mechanism to punish media persons who create disharmony in the society.

MISS MABEL REBELLO (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY): Shri P.K. Maheshwari, not present. Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee, not present. Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, not present. Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik.

Near closure situation of Gandhi Vidya Sansthan, Varanasi

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा विशेष उल्लेख लोकनायक जयप्रकाश नारायण द्वारा स्थापित गांधी विद्या संस्थान, वाराणसी को नेरतनाबूद करने की साजिश के संबंध में है।

महोदय, सन 1960 में सर्व सेवा संघ के तत्वावधान में लोकनायक जयप्रकाश नारायण, दादा धर्माधिकारी, शंकर राव देव एवं नवकृष्ण चौधरी जैसे भारत के मनीषियों द्वारा वाराणसी में गांधी विद्या संस्थान की स्थापना की गई थी और इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य समाज विज्ञान और गांधी-विचार और उसके प्रयोग के बीच ऐसा संबंध स्थापित करना था, जिससे ज्ञान के विकास में मदद मिल सके और सत्य, अहिंसा, प्रेम एवं सहकार पर आधारित विश्व-मानव संबंध विकसित हो सके। यह एक स्वायत्तशासी संस्था थी और यह सोसायटी रजिस्ट्रेशन एक्ट 1860 के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत हुई। इस संस्थान की भूमि और भवन सर्व सेवा संघ द्वारा निर्मित किए गए। यह संस्था 40 वर्षों से अधिक समय से कार्यरत है। अनेक वर्षों तक इस संस्थान ने अपने ही प्रयास से इस संस्थान को आर्थिक रूप से खड़ा किया था। भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान परिषद ने सन 1977-78 से इस संस्थान को अनुदान देना शुरू किया।

मुझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि आज इस संस्थान में ताले पड़े हुए हैं। 1999 से इस संस्थान को मिलने वाला सरकारी अनुदान बंद है जिसके कारण कर्मचारियों को