

**I.F.S. Officers Travel by Foreign Air Lines**

\*945. { Shri Raghunath Singh:  
          { Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers of the Indian Foreign Service including Ambassadors have utilised the free services of foreign Air Lines in order to come to India during the last four months; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Indian Foreign Service stationed abroad have sent their families home as free passengers of foreign air lines?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):**

(a) and (b). No Ambassador or other member of the Indian Foreign Service has utilised free service of a foreign airline in their normal service in order to come to India. When, however, any international airline inaugurates a new service, as a matter of courtesy they invite the diplomatic representatives of the countries concerned to participate in the inaugural flight. For these flights no passage tickets are sold and apart from the diplomatic representatives some newspaper men and others are also invited. This is a normal practice not only by foreign airlines but by Indian airlines also.

Where diplomatic officers are invited by a foreign airline to participate in an inaugural flight, they approach the Government of India for permission. Such permission is sometimes granted after the Ministry of External Affairs has taken all relevant factors into account, including the consideration whether the officers' visit will be useful for the purpose of consultation.

During the last six months five references from Heads of Missions were made for such permission to be granted. In three cases this permission was given while in two permission was not given because it was

thought that no public purpose would have been served. The three cases in which permission was given were as follows:

- (1) Shri Prem Krishen, Commissioner for the Government of India in Nairobi for the second inaugural flight of the East African Airways. He was not accompanied by his wife.
- (2) Shri C. S. Jha, Ambassador of India to Japan, travelled on the inaugural flight of Air France. He was accompanied by his wife.
- (3) Shri A. N. Mehta, Charge d'Affaires in Vienna, who travelled by the inaugural flight of Pan American Airways. He was not accompanied by his wife

All these three officers were required also for consultation in regard to official work.

**Compensation Claims**

\*950. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state the ways and means devised for speedy disposal of revision appeals in respect of compensation claims in the offices of the Regional Settlement Commissioner, New Delhi and the Chief Settlement Commissioner?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** Formerly the Chief Settlement Commissioner and three other senior officers were hearing appeals and revisions in addition to their Administrative work, but recently in addition to these, a whole time officer has been appointed to deal with appeals and revisions under the Compensation Act. The appointment of one more whole time appellate officer is also under consideration.

In the Regional Settlement Commissioner's office a whole time Assistant Settlement Commissioner has been appointed to deal with appellate work.