

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) SUPPLY OF ASSOCIATED AND NATURAL GAS FROM BOMBAY HIGH TO GUJARAT

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH (Jamnagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I raise the following matter under rule 377 in connection with Bombay High to which Mr. Mavalankar made a reference.

There is likely to be stir in Gujarat in connection with the slow process of starting supply of associated and natural gas from Bombay High. The reason for the same is that while, as per their assurance, the Government has started supply of associated and natural gas from Bombay High to Maharashtra, the assurance given to Gujarat of starting the work as per schedule has not been kept. The Minister should assure the House that implementation of the assurance given by Government to Gujarat will be taken up immediately.

(ii) REPORTED INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE NOMAD AIRCRAFT

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission under rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I wish to raise the following matter:

In the name of running a third level feeder air service, I gather the Government is taking a decision about the purchase of aircraft and ancillary worth about Rs. 30 crores to run and maintain certain air services in the so-called inaccessible areas.

The Indian Airlines Corporation, it is reported, has already declined to operate the services. The third level feeder service, to my mind, is being set up with a specific knowledge that it will lose money.

The aircraft involved in this deal is one called 'NOMAD' which is

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manufactured in Australia and priced at about Rs. 30 lakhs each. It was offered to Government of India at Rs. 54 lakhs each last year. In Australia where the aircraft is made, it costs just under Rs. 50 lakhs. After conducting the survey in India, the distributors reported to have quoted the Government of India Rs. 54 lakhs in 1977. Strangely enough, since early this year, the same price has been raised to Rs. 60 lakhs each. In 1977 the price quoted included the Indian Agents' commission. Since then the agency has been terminated and the distributor has now its own representative in Delhi. Thus the Agents' commission has been saved. However, in place of reduction, the price has escalated by six lakhs per aircraft and an aircraft that has found no overseas buyers, is offered to this Government for its third level service, at a marked up price.

The aircraft is only a 16 seater one and when toilet is put in the number of seats, it will be reduced to 2/3rd. However the actual cost of 20 aircrafts (number contemplated to buy) is Rs. 10.5 crores. Besides there are spares etc. that are to be taken into account and thus another one crore will be involved. The spares will cost about five crores for these.

To operate the 3rd level feeder service for a few government officials and affluent businessmen who do not have to pay from their pocket, every year crores will go down the drain. Before initiating action this should be borne in mind.

Third level air service may only be considered provided they fulfil the undermentioned conditions:—

(i) No cost of any nature should be allowed to fall to any public exchequer;

(ii) There should be sufficient potential for passengers to buy tickets at economic price to enable the