

HAH Disc.

17.30 hrs.

CARRIAGE BY AIR BILL

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention for the unification of certain rules relating to international carriage by air signed at Warsaw on the 12th day of October, 1929 and to the said Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol on the 28th day of September, 1955 and to make provision for applying the rules contained in the Convention in its original form and in the amended form (subject to exceptions, adaptations and modifications) to non-international carriage by air and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

This Bill deals with the very complicated procedures for international air traffic between one country and another. These procedures are governed by a series of agreements from time to time. The first major agreement in this respect was the Warsaw Convention of 1929, which was adopted by this country....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He may continue his speech tomorrow. We will now take up the Half-an-Hour discussion.

17.31 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

SMUGGLING OF INDIAN FILMS AND RECORDED MUSIC TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Sir, this half an hour discussion pertains to the smuggling of Indian films and recorded music to foreign countries. When a question was tabled on the 15th November 1972 for an assessment of the smuggling of Indian films and recorded music to foreign countries, the reply was that no re-

liable information is available and the information is being collected.

India is constantly called a smugglers' paradise to which are smuggled gold, watches, textiles, synthetic yarns and foreign consumer goods of every description with unfailing regularity to be put into the bottomless well of the vast Indian sub-continent. There are certain places in India which have become famous and have reached the high water mark in smuggling Bombay on the west coast is a case in point. It attracts foreign racketeers and smugglers.

17.32 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY in the chair.]

Though the hon. Minister in his reply has not given any reply about the assessment of smuggling, according to my assessment the smuggling of Indian films and music records to foreign countries is to the extent of more than Rs. 5 crores to 6 crores a year. As a consequence, we are losing that much of revenue. For the last six or seven years the unfettered smuggling of Indian films out of the country has been on the increase and it is estimated that India loses Rs. 5 crores to 7 crores annually in foreign exchange because of this illegal trade.

The Indian films are in great demand in many countries, e.g. South Africa, East Africa, West Indies, Maritus, Malaysia, Singapore, Iran, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Middle Eastern and West Asian countries and the Persian Gulf States and Kingdoms. Recently, there is extension of this illegal export of Indian films to South America, with particular reference to Venezuela and several European countries, including Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Germany. These are the countries which are involved in the smuggling of Indian films.