

(ग) क्या इन दो प्रभागों में कुछ ऐसे कर्मचारी भी हैं जो उनके मन्त्रालय की स्वीकृति कर्मचारी संख्या में नहीं आते और अन्य कार्यालयों से वहाँ प्रतिनियुक्ति पर आये हैं ; और

(घ) क्या ऐसे कर्मचारियों को मन्त्रालय में रखने का कारण यह है कि उनके मन्त्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी, साहित्यिक और तकनीकी कार्य करने के लिये अयोग्य हैं ?

शिक्षा तथा युवक सेवा मन्त्री (डा० जी० के० आर० बी० राव) : (क) विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है। [मन्त्रालय में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या LT-2646/70]

(ख) अवर सचिव-1

सहायक-5

प्रवर श्रेणी लिपिक-2

(ग) जो नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Correcting Statement to Unstarred Question No. 1789 dated 22.11.1969 re.

Sacrifice of a Boy in Deori District of U. P.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : The following unstarred question was answered in the Lok Sabha on 22nd November, 1968 :

- whether a 12-year old Harijan boy was sacrificed in a village 'Lal' in District Deoria in Eastern U. P. during July 1968 ;
- whether it is also a fact that a person invited the said boy to his house for meals and that the boy was sacrificed there ;
- whether this was the third sacrifice in that house ; and
- if so, the action taken by Government in regard thereto ?

2. In the written answer to the question it was stated that a young Harijan boy was the victim of human sacrifice. Further inquiries have revealed that the victim did not belong to any Scheduled Caste. The word 'Harijan' may be deleted from the written answer given earlier to the question.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported retaliatory action by Foreign Airlines against concession to Indian passengers by Air-India

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat) : I call the attention of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported retaliatory action planned by certain foreign airlines against the decision of the Government of India to allow Indian passengers travelling by Air India to carry 100 dollars."

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Sir, the question of relaxing foreign travel regulations has been under Government's consideration, and decisions taken in this regard were announced by the Finance Ministry on 18th February, 1970. One of the decisions is that persons who have not been abroad for a period of three years will be exempt from the operation of 'P' form control in respect of one visit abroad. The period of three years will be reckoned backwards from the date of commencement of the proposed visit. Persons going abroad under the scheme and travelling by Air-India will be given foreign exchange equivalent to \$100 for the entire trip by the Reserve Bank. This facility will be in addition to the travel facilities already admissible under the present 'P' form regulations and other approved visits such as business travel abroad, education, medical treatment, Haj pilgrimage, etc.

The entire range of traffic under these categories will continue to be available for competition amongst all airlines operating in India. Even for traffic under the new scheme there is no compulsion that people must travel by Air-India, but those who do so will get foreign exchange release equivalent to \$100 in recognition of the fact that the foreign exchange involved in their passage will be minimal.

[Dr. Karan Singh]

I have seen newspaper reports to the effect that some foreign airlines are unhappy with the recent relaxation. Government have, however, not received any communication from any foreign airline in this regard. I am sure that if the position is properly understood the relaxation now made by Government will in fact be widely appreciated abroad, as it has been at home, because it adds a new category of potential travellers and does not restrict the scope available to all airlines.

SHRI R. BARUA : \$100 is very small for the purpose of foreign travel. It has become our habit to irritate others by touching upto very insignificant points. By extending \$100 for a foreign trip, they had been inviting unfavourable comments.

May I know whether the members of the I.A.T.A and other foreign airlines have brought to the Government's notice that it is likely to affect competition? Was it necessary at all? I want to know whether such a decision was taken in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism.

DR. KARAN SINGH ; The decision was certainly taken in consultation with our Ministry. We have been pressing for some time that there should be relaxation on foreign travel and this has been a welcome step. The I.A.T.A is responsible for fixing of air fares.

This concession does not have anything to do with air fare. Therefore, I think that it falls outside the purview of I.A.T.A. I would submit that I do not think that we should have any hesitation at all about it. I think that it will be a very valuable relaxation ; it will allow more and more people to travel abroad and it will also lead generally to the development of tourism.

SHIR N. K. SANGHI (Jodhpur) : We are very happy that the restrictions on the P form have been removed and have been relaxed. In 1969, during the first three months, out of 19,507 applications received in the Reserve Bank, only 76 were rejected. You can appreciate how cumbersome and useless this restriction on the P form was. We are very happy that you have given this extra 100 dollars to the people travelling by Air India.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one thing. I rang up half a dozen airlines and they said that they have till today not received any details of the scheme. Since they have not received any details, they are not in a position to make any recrimination about it. In this particular condition, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one particular fact : the Government of India is a major partner in Air India. As long as any airline does anything against the rules of the I.A.T.A. it will be improper. Of course what the Government of India does is absolutely justified ; But since you are a major partner in Air India, your offerings 100 dollars exchange will construe as a rebate to persons travelling by Air-India is going to be discriminatory. What have you to say.

Further in case you want to promote tourism, would you also consider to give a free stop-over to foreign passengers who are coming from outside India to visit India by Air India, so that foreigners may be encouraged to travel by Air-India to India to get a free stop-over from the Government of India, from the Ministry of Tourism ? (Interruption) What I suggest is in case you are really interested in promoting tourism to India, it will be a suggestion if the Government of India or the Ministry of Tourism gives a free stop-over to foreigners coming by Air India to India for a day or two. I think that will promote your tourism better than 100 dollars to the out going travellers, and if the Government of India feels that 100 dollars should be given, I would suggest that you give it to the people travelling by any airline. That will be more satisfactory.

DR. KARAN SINGH ; The question of stop-over really affects the foreign visitors coming to India. This scheme is for Indians who want to go abroad. It is not a rebate. I must make it clear for the record that it is not a rebate on the fare. It is a release of foreign exchange for which they are going to pay ; they are going to pay the rupee equivalent in foreign exchange. It is not going to be given to them free. It is a special concession so that they can go over. As regards the other suggestion about stop-over, many international airlines have got this system where by the people can

come and break their journey, without any additional cost. This applies to Air-India and other international airlines. I cannot see what the hon. Member means by free stop-over. If he means that we should bear the hotel expenses, that will only happen if the plane's flight is cancelled or something like that, where we are constrained to do so. Otherwise, we certainly welcome people coming here; we want them to stop-over not only for a day but preferably for a week or a month.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Sir, my question has not been followed by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down? I allowed your introductory remarks and then your suggestion. But there is no time for any more clarification. It should be a question, but you made a regular speech and then made a suggestion. I could not make out what your question was except the suggestion. So you should be content with the reply. Now, you are getting up again. Shrimati Savitri Shyam—absent Dr. Karni Singh.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I address this question, from one Doctor K. to another Doctor K.

AN HON. MEMBER : From one Maharaja to another Maharaja!

DR. KARNI SINGH : Yes : if you want to put it like that. Now, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister on trying to make travel more easy for do Indian citizens. I not believe that we should travel at this juncture to enjoy ourselves, but it is very important for a developing country like India that its citizens should go out to see what is happening, come back and then improve our country. We cannot possibly have a country where everybody lives like *koop mandooks*.

The question that I wish to ask of the hon. Minister is this. Is it a fact that other airlines are offering incentives to Indian travellers by repaying a part of the fare under the table? Also, is this partly one of the reasons why Air India has given this incentive to the travelling public abroad?

Secondly, may I know whether the foreign exchange quantum so spent will come the reserves of Air India or from the reserves of the Government of India?

Thirdly, may I know whether the minister proposes to give any incentives more than what he has given now to sports teams from India travelling abroad?

DR. KARAN SINGH : The hon. member referred to unfair incentives given by certain airlines. Certainly such practices are known to exist. Certain airlines indulge in unfair practices by giving rebate under the table. I would not like to mention the name of any airline, but this is a clear infringement of the I.A.T.A. regulations. Whenever any such report comes to our notice, we bring it to the notice of I.A.T.A. authorities. To meet that, we have introduced a Travel Promotion Scheme also known as the Bonus Scheme from U. K. to India, so that Indian nationals there who wish to come here can be given a rebate of 37 per cent. This is an additional scheme, quite apart from these 100 dollars. That is the main sector on which the unethical practices take place and we hope that our Travel Promotion Scheme will help to a considerable extent to meet these unfair practices.

Secondly, the funds would come entirely from the general reserves of the Government of India and not from the Air India reserves. In a way, of course, they are the same thing because Air India is a public sector undertaking, but technically the funds would come from the reserves of the Government of India.

About sportsman, the hon. member himself is a very distinguished sportsman. We have a scheme for special visits abroad by sportsmen who have attained a certain minimum standard as adjudged by the competent sports body, which will also be liberalised. I hope we will produce more sportsmen of the calibre of the hon. member.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : I think the people of India will be baffled to see this, because they cannot understand why there should be any question of retaliation by any foreign airline when it is the legitimate right of the Government of India to provide additional incentives to its nationals to fly by its own plane. I do not know whether IATA has any international convention by which there is any uniformity in allowing money to be carried by the nationals of all the countries in the world. I want to be enlightened about it. If not, naturally BOAC, Quantas, Pan Am and all

[Shri Samar Guba]

the airlines in different countries provide certain extra facilities to their nationals and India did not challenge that. So, if the Government of India provides some extra facilities to its nationals, why should that question be raised ?

The hon. minister referred to certain undercutting of the fare and some rebate being given under the table. Which are the countries which do undercutting of the fares under the table ? I also want to know whether the Government has taken into consideration all the eventualities and what steps they are going to take in expanding our own airlines and providing facilities to the Indian citizens to fly by our own planes if those foreign airlines, who are threatening India, stop calling at Indian airports ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : As I said in my answer, at least as far as we know, there is really no question of any retaliation and no such idea has been put to us by any of the airlines. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that there should be no justification whatsoever for taking any such step. In fact, by making this relaxation a much broader spectrum of Indians can now travel abroad and this can be taken advantage of by all airlines, including Air India. I therefore feel that foreign airlines should welcome this act because we have now given them a much larger potential.

As I stated earlier, I do not think that IATA is involved in this. IATA is involved only when we consider the fares. This has nothing to do with the air fares. This only says how much of his own money a person can take in foreign exchange. I do not see how IATA came into the picture.

As far as as under-the-table deals are concerned, unfortunately the airlines who indulge in this do not advertise that they do so. It is difficult for me to pin them down. I hope the hon. Member will bear with me that I do not think it would be correct for me to mention any names because, after all, we want to work in co-operation. Even if we bring it to the notice of any airlines, they will say : we have not done it, some agents have done it. So, I do not think any names should be mentioned, because we want to

maintain good relations with all the other airlines that are operating here.

12.17 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras for the year 1968-69 along with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Institute of Technology Act, 1961,
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 1968-69. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2625/70].

Aircraft (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1969

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Hindi version of the Aircraft (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1969 published in Notification No. G.S.R., 2379 in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1969, under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an explanatory note. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2626/70].

Action taken by Government on Assurances, etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) Following statements showing the action taken by Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers