

they could not decide. For that, the Central Government cannot be held responsible. But the other suggestion can be examined.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vyas. Do you want to propagate the cause of the elders ?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, unemployment is the most acute problem of the country and many States are raising the retirement age from 55 years to 58 years and thereby they are making it all the more acute.

Secondly, persons below the age of 55 years have more vigour than the persons above 55 years of age and the Prime Minister wants efficient and clean administration. The Government of India has fixed retirement age at 58 years and many States have also raised retirement age to 58 years. So, with a view to involve youth in the administration I want to know whether Government will reduce the retirement age to 55 years so that the work is done with great vigour.

I would like to mention one more point. The civil servants are burdend with more responsibilities in the last years of their service, i.e., in 3 years between 55 and 58. And with a view to meet those responsibilities they pay most of their attention in accumulation of wealth. So it is quite necessary that retirement age should be fixed at 55 years. I want to know whether you propose to take steps in this respect ?

[English]

RROF. N.G. RANGA : I am still as active and as effective as my hon. friend and various other younger people here.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : It is very gratifying to note that the hon. Member is championing the cause of the youth in the services. But, as I said, the Fourth Pay Commission is looking into this aspect whether as far as the age of retirement is concerned, any change is necessary. Since there are divergent views among the hon. Members—one hon. Member has said that it should be revised while another hon. Member said that it should be increased—I think it is

better that we await the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I would only like to add that we want to ensure efficient and quick disposal of work. We will see that the efficiency of elders and vigour of the youth are combined in carrying out the work.

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI METHA : I support my friend. As we see on the one hand dead wood is sticking to the chair in the services and on the other, many young people are knocking at the doors for employment, there is a good case for the reduction of the age of retirement. My question is : will the Government look into the matter that there is a lot of divergence in the matter of conditions of service regarding pension and gratuity in the States and in the Centre and whether any attempt is being made to bring about uniformity in the matter of retirement benefits which can very well be done in consultation with the States.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the real solution lies in creating more avenues of employment—not alone in services. How far can you do that ?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : It is a suggestion which he will examine.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question—Mr. Piyush Tirkhi.... Not here.

Next question—Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhury.

Scandinavian Airlines System on Calcutta-Copenhagen Route

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*105 SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
SHRI AMAL DATTA :

Will be Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have refused to allow the Scandinavian Airlines System

(SAS) to operate a third flight on the Calcutta-Copenhagen route ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether this decision will adversely affect the Calcutta Airport and also the economy and tourism of Eastern Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) No, Sir. No request of the SAS to operate a third service between Calcutta and Copenhagen has been received by Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY :

I want to know whether it is a fact that the Scandinavian Airlines have decided to shift their office from Calcutta to Delhi and if so, what are the reasons therefore.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : We have no information regarding this and they have also not requested us that they want to operate a new flight. So the question of refusal does not arise.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY :

Is the Government aware of the fact that many foreign airlines want to operate from Calcutta for different destinations. Now, in spite of the fact that the international traffic to and from Calcutta airport is increasing, there has been a steady decline in the operation of flights by foreign agencies and also by Air India to different parts of the world from Calcutta airport. In view of that fact, I want to know whether some foreign airlines want to operate from Calcutta to different destinations Via London and New York—which would have been beneficial for the passengers who originate from Calcutta and there has been no direct flight from Calcutta to London or New York. Have any such suggestions been received by the Government and if so, what are they going to do about that ?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : I have

complete list of places with me where International Airlines operate their respective services. If the hon. Member wants to know, I can tell him about it. Any suggestion received in this regard is discussed at the time when bilateral agreements are concluded. If the hon. Member wants to talk about some particular Airlines then he should put the question separately. I will reply to it.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I think the Government follows the policy in regard to stoppages of foreign airlines by which they allow only one stoppage for a flight in India. I think that is the system that has been evolved because the European Continental countries are small and they do not allow more than one stop. Now, in India which is a big country I have spoken to the foreign airlines people here. If two stops are given to air-flights then many of them would like to stop in Calcutta. They are told either you take Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta or Madras. Any of these four. You cannot have two stops. If the government is prepared to change that policy in which case only Calcutta airport which has become quite horrible so far as international flights are concerned can be revived.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : The issue of Calcutta airport has constantly been brought to the notice of the Central Government. The hon. Members have raised this matter several times earlier also. I assure you that we ourselves want that international flights should stop at Calcutta and traffic is generated there. Recently Air India was asked to conduct a marketing survey. I want to read it out to you. You will come to know the reasons why flights are not operated there.

[English]

“At the instance of the Government, Air India conducted a market survey in February 1984 to assess the traffic potential and the future prospects of the travelling market in Calcutta. The findings of the survey have revealed that due to the deteriorating economic profile of the city and the

State all manufacturing and industrial activity in the State has come to a virtual standstill. This has directly affected the flow of passengers and cargo to and from Calcutta."

[*Translation*]

I would submit that these are the main reasons. I can give the percentage and figures of the flight which operated there earlier. Thai Airways-44.2 percent, Air India-21.2 percent, S.A.S. 16.2 percent, British Airways-10 percent and Aero Flot 8.3 percent...

[*English*]

"This market has grown at a sluggish pace of 3, per cent from 1979 onwards. It is not expected to show significant growth in the coming years until..."

(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Sir, there are international agreements according to which airlines operate from different cities and the agreements are such that if we operate to one city in their country then they operate to one city in our country. If you are suggesting that we dilute our side of the agreement without getting anything in return the government will not do that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There is no dilution. Where is the dilution? People of Calcutta will get benefitted...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : There are certain national interests that we have to keep in mind and Calcutta we will keep in mind. But if you really want traffic to develop in Calcutta than you have to develop Calcutta. You can't kill Calcutta and expect traffic to grow.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : That is not true. Traffic in Calcutta has grown...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH : Sir, there are four major metropolitan towns—Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Delhi and Bombay airports have become very over-crowded. So, why don't you divert some of the planes to Calcutta

where the airport is very developed but it remains unused. Congress people also live in Calcutta. (*Interruptions*) I would request the hon. Prime Minister to find out whether it is possible to divert some of the airlines flights which make Delhi and Bombay airports over-crowded.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We are already looking at how to increase the traffic in Calcutta and we are starting two flights of Indian airlines going to Thailand which will start fairly soon.

Boundary Commission for N.E. States

*106. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many residual border disputes calling for adjustment and settlement as between not only Nagaland and Manipur but also Assam and all its sister adjoining States; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a boundary commission for all the North-Eastern States so as to promote goodwill and cooperation in this sensitive region?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) There exists a boundary dispute between the States of Assam and Nagaland on the basis of a claim laid by Nagaland to certain territories which constitutionally form part of the State of Assam. Assam has also boundary problems with Meghalaya and the Union territory of Arunachal Pradesh. These however, primarily relate to physical demarcation of the inter-State boundary on ground. There is no boundary dispute as such between Nagaland and Manipur States.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would first like to draw your attention to the fact that this question has been cannibalised. The first three parts have been removed. The head has been taken away. Only the torso remains. You would notice that there is a certain absurdity in the

question as printed, a certain dichotomy. The first part of the question was this, namely, whether 11 officials of the Manipur Government were arrested inside Nagaland territory on February 21 and reasons therefor, and whether the officials were released only after intervention by the Central Government. This question has not been answered. I would like to know whether their release was effected after the Central Government's intervention. How was it that officials of one State were arrested in the territory of another State?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : It is a fact that the Chief Minister of Manipur has written to Central Government as well as to Chief Minister of Nagaland saying that 9 officials including one Deputy Conservator of Forests were taken to Kohima more with a view to give them protection. But later on they were regularly arrested and they were in jail for 4 days. This happened on 21-2-85. We have requested the Government of Nagaland to look into the matter and to settle it amicably.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, the reply of the Hon. Minister only confirms that there is lot of bad blood and lot of tension between the people of the various States in that area. The hon. Minister said that the officials were taken to Kohima, the capital of Nagaland, for their protection. Protection against whom? Now, the report says that the people of Nagaland were agitated by the presence of these Manipur officials there and they were going to take the law into their own hands. This had called for police intervention and they were taken to Kohima. This indicates the kind of tension which is prevailing there. This is not the first time that this thing has happened. A couple of years ago—I do not remember the exact time—there were some armed clashes between the police forces of Nagaland and the police forces of Manipur and Assam. It is unfortunate. This part of our country is a very sensitive part full of troubles and internal insurgencies. Some neighbouring countries are interested in muddying the waters even more. Therefore it is necessary that there should be peace, cooperation and understanding between the various sister States there and the people of the various areas. Manipur has no common boundary with Assam. Assam was the parent State in those days.

The hon. Minister admitted that there are disputes or troubles as between Assam and Nagaland, as between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and as between Assam and Meghalaya. I know of Meghalaya because I come from that State. There are two spots which are hotting up. Police from one State had been encroaching into another State and arresting people there. I would like the hon. Minister to look into this. I am mentioning areas in Meghalaya, for example, Block-I and Block-II of Jaintia hills and Rambrai area of Khasi hills. I think it is time for the Central Government to intervene and try to bring about understanding. We should not allow tensions to fester as something more serious might happen. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this suggestion of appointing either a high power committee or a Commission to go into this question and mutually settle this matter. Now, these States are being ruled by the Congress (I) government. Would you kindly look into this and create a new climate by appointing Commission to bring about a settlement?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : So far as the boundary dispute is concerned it is only between Nagaland and Assam. For the rest of the areas, it is merely a question of demarcation of the boundaries on the ground. We have been requesting the State Governments concerned to appoint appropriate authorities and see that this demarcation is done at the earliest. The Survey of India is trying to help them in this matter and so far as our approach of Government of India in all these disputes is concerned, it is a matter between two State Governments. We are prepared to use our good offices in order to bring them together and try to solve the problem.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : May I know from the hon. Minister whether there was a High Power Tripartite Committee to solve the boundaries demarcation problem between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh? If it is so, (a) what is the present position of the report of that Committee and (b) is the Central Government going to advise the respective State Governments there to accelerate the mutual consultations so that these minor irritants in North-Eastern Region, where most of the time there is turmoil, could be avoided?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : I am in full agreement with what the hon. Member has suggested that we should try to remove the irritants to the extent it is possible. In fact, I am thinking of going to those areas and having a meeting with the Members of the North-Eastern Council as also all the Chief Ministers of those areas and request them that they should try to settle this dispute to the extent possible, and if any assistance is required on behalf of the Government of India, we are prepared to give them.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 108. Shri Mohd. Mahfooj Ali Khan—Absent.

Next question No. 109—Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your kind attention to question No. 107. It is in my name.

MR. SPEAKER : It has been postponed.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : You have postponed this question overnight. But no reason has been given on what grounds you have postponed this question and when it will be taken up. According to Rule 43, you have admitted it. Once you have admitted it, it cannot be postponed without assigning reason. I know the difficulties regarding the Rine Commission report and agitations are going on in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : It will be answered. Don't worry.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : In your Secretariat's letter nothing has been mentioned.

Evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme

***109. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any monitoring and evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme and other schemes of rural employment programmes have been undertaken by the Planning Commission ; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). The regular monitoring and assessment of the progress of these programmes is primarily the function of the administrative Ministry concerned, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, the Planning Commission monitors the progress of these programmes as part of its monitoring of the Twenty-Point Programme. The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission undertakes evaluation studies of selected programmes. It has currently in hand the preparation of two separate evaluation studies, one relating to the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the other to the National Rural Employment Programme.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : According to the written reply, it appears that the Planning Commission has made evaluation of certain programmes and at present, evaluation studies are under preparation. The Government ought to have given some findings as a result of these studies already carried out. May I know, if the Government are aware that the allocation of funds to the block has been made without any regard to the level of poverty of the blocks with the result that in many blocks only less than five per cent of the poor have been covered ? If so, are the Government considering any proposal to revise the criteria for allocation of funds

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : At the moment, the allocation of funds is made on a block to block basis. We are examining the question of revising this criteria of allocation in the 7th Plan so that the incidence of poverty could be one of the major considerations for the allocation of funds.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Are the Government aware as a result of the monitoring carried out that middlemen have come up between the departments concerned with developments and the beneficiaries with the result that the benefits of these schemes are not reaching the poor and on the other hand, the funds