

इस बारे में कदम उठाने वाली है? इस बारे में हमको सबकत करने का कदम करें

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The question of control of essential commodities is always engaging the attention of the Government. If at any time any of the essential commodities go up in prices beyond the reach of the common man, there are various ways in which it can be tackled. One is the distribution of the commodity at a fair price through the public distribution system so as to make it available at reasonable price. It is not necessarily by control of prices that we ensure that the commodities are available at reasonable prices. In fact, it has been our sad experience that mere control without proper distribution arrangements fails. We will take all these factors into account and see to it that the essential commodities are made available at reasonable prices.

Construction of Air Terminal Building at Leh

*166. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of air terminal building at Leh airport has been held up due to non-availability of funds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that air passengers on the Srinagar-Leh route are facing great hardships due to lack of accommodation and other facilities at the Leh airfield; and

(c) if replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to expedite the construction of new air terminal building and to renovate the existing temporary shelter till the new building is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c). Passenger handling facilities at Leh aerodrome are provided in renovate Nissan huts. A permanent terminal building is under construction through

the agency of Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.95 lakhs. Funds for the new terminal building are provided in the plan. Payment of Rs. 5 lakhs had already been made to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department. Balance payment will be made to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department after they have completed the necessary formalities.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as stated by the hon. Minister, Rs. 5 lakhs has been released, but until very recently this amount has not been received. If it is released, I would like to know when this amount has been released. And then, the J&K PWD is supposed to complete some formalities for the release of the remaining amount. I would like to know which are those formalities.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): There is no question of not releasing this amount of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Jammu and Kashmir Government. They have accepted that position. What is required is that we have asked them as to how they have spent that money and on that question recently they have submitted some statement to the Government and the Government is considering the payment of the balance to the Jammu and Kashmir Government for completion of the work.

The hon. Member wanted to know the time. It was released in December, 1979.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir, as you know, Ladakh is a land-locked country and remains cut off from the rest of the country for over six months in a year and every article for building material is to be lifted from the Kashmir valley and that is to be done before the closure of the road. Because of the shortage of funds, the concerned departments have not been able to stock enough materials like cement; steel and timber etc. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister as to whether the hon. Minis-

ter will consider the release of the remaining amount immediately in the light of what has been stated above.

Secondly, about the renovation of Nissam type terminal building, it is true that some renovation has been done last year and that is not sufficient. Hardly about 40 to 50 chairs are there for all the passengers including for the security rooms in the complex. I would like to know whether the Government will look into it and provide the necessary furniture immediately.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said that this question is under the consideration of the Government now. Earlier, the Director General, Civil Aviation, had asked for that account. Now, the Director General Civil Aviation, had asked for the account to the Government, and I want to assure the hon. Member that very shortly we will take the decision in the matter and release the amount.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: It is locally felt that the Aerodrome Officer should be a local man so that he can look after the terminal building in a better way because the local man is always stationed there. Will the hon. Minister consider this suggestion?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is an All-India Service and definitely for certain posts and for certain jobs we do consider the local people but not in all cases.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Srinagar is one of the most important regions of the country and from the tourist point of view it is also one of the most important cities. But it is lacking the night landing facilities. May I draw the attention of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to this and know what steps they are taking in this behalf?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is for Leh or Srinagar?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Srinagar.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Although this question does not arise out of this question, yet I take note of the suggestion of the hon. Member.

भाषार्थ भगवान देव : मारिगस एक छोटा भारत माना जाता है। हिन्द महासागर में विदेशी ताकतों के बढ़ते हुए कदम को देखते हुए, मारिगस को कितने विमान देने के सम्बन्ध में आपकी श्री रामगुलाम जी से बातचीत हुई है, कृपा कर बतलायें ?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Although this does not arise out of the main question, I can tell the hon. Member that we had some discussions regarding this matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Making Andaman and Nicobar Islands into Holiday Resort

*162. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are intending to make the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into a major holiday resort;

(b) the arrangements to be made for the purpose; and

(c) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a). No, Sir. There is no proposal to develop the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a major holiday resort.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Accumulation of Ingot Steel in Steel Plants

*164. **SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:**
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the accumulation of over 8,00,000 tonnes of ingot steel in the Steel Plants and the steps being taken to dispose them of; and