

**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

**Air Transportation**

**Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister of Transport and the government on the recent bilateral air agreement reached between Canada and China. However, we must not forget that India also has a rapidly growing economy. India has a strong relationship, both economically and socially, with Canada.

Could the Minister of Transport please tell the House what the status is of the Canada-India bilateral air agreement?

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the House that these are happy times with Canada-India relations. Last month we celebrated the return of Air-India regular flights to Canada and today we just completed an agreement with India. We are going to increase by fivefold to 35 round trip flights per week for each country. It is going to be a great improvement on Canada-India relations and it is a great agreement for Canada and for India.