

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Indian Airlines Corporation

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S.N.Q. 9. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
 { **Shri Goray:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Indian Airlines Corporation has received a communication from the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, dated the 20th February, 1960 informing him that according to their resolution dated the 15th August, 1959, none of the members of the Association would undertake a flight with Captain H. L. Asarrappa; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). The Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation received the communication dated the 5th February, 1960 (and not the 20th February) to the effect stated in Clause (a) of the question. It is difficult to understand the timing of this communication, because the matter is under investigation and an Enquiry Officer appointed to investigate the conduct of Captain Ranade and Captain Asarrappa is still holding an enquiry. That communication would not obviously affect the result of the enquiry and the nature of the action taken on the report of the Enquiry Officer will entirely depend on the merits of the case. On the general issue, however, I feel bound to state that the Pilots so long as they are in service are bound by the rules of discipline and conditions of service of the Corporation and any disobedience of lawful orders issued or breach of discipline or any other rules of conduct would have to be dealt with by the Corporation in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the rules. In this context any personal preference of any class of employees as to under

or with whom they could serve is irrelevant. No action was taken on the communication as none was called for. I should like to add that the enquiry has now been completed by the officer appointed and the management will shortly issue orders on that enquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: Besides sending a copy of the resolution that was adopted on the 17th August, 1959 by the Commercial Pilots' Association, may I know whether they supplied any memorandum specifying the reasons for such a decision?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am not aware of any other memorandum having been received. The Indian Airlines Corporation might have received it, but, as I said, the whole question is under consideration by an investigating officer.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this Commercial Pilots' Organisation have also indicated their future course of action if proper attention is not paid to their resolution?

Sardar Hukam Singh: That is a part of the main question itself.

Shri Mohiuddin: That is in the question itself.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know what is the conduct of Captain Asarrappa concerning which the pilots have complained?

Shri Mohiuddin: I might remind the House that there was a strike on 15th August, 1959, by the pilots, and a statement was made in this House later that there was some quarrel between Captain Ranade and Captain Asarrappa during a flight in the flight deck. That whole question is under investigation.

Shri Hem Barua: Are we to understand that this decision of the commercial pilots is an echo of the Gilder issue?

Shri Mohiuddin: No, Sir.