

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about several thousand dummy employees of the General Insurance Companies which have now been nationalised ; and

(b) whether attention of Government in this regard has been invited to a report in the *Times of India* of the 12th June, 1971, and if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Government has seen the Press Report in the *Times of India* of 12th June, 1971, referred to the question. There is no evidence to indicate that the malpractice is of this order. Thought is already being given as to the steps to be taken to remove this malpractice.

Complaints against the Indian Airlines

3840. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to certain complaints against the Indian Airlines by one Mrs. Lily Althaus of Zurich based on her experience during her recent visit to India ;

(b) whether she has detailed in her letter of complaint about harassment which she suffered at the heads of the ground staff of the Indian Airlines, mislanding of her baggage and loss of her belongings without being compensated by the Indian Airlines ; and

(c) whether these complaints have been investigated and if so, the action taken against the negligent officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The complaints pertain to the period when Indian Airlines were having acute labour problems. Hence it has not been possible to pin-point responsibility. Indian Airlines are going to reimburse to Mrs. Lily Althaus the loss incurred by her and offer apologies for the trouble.

Demands made in All India Pensioner's Convention

3841. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Second Convention of the All India Pensioners was recently held in New Delhi ;

(b) whether revision of the pension rules, which were framed in 1871, was demanded at the convention ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to various demands and suggestion of the pensioners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). Government have seen a Press report to this effect.

(c) Apparently, reference made by the Convention to pension rules of 1871 relates to the Pensions Act of 1871. This Act regulates matters relating to rights to pensions and commutation of pensions and affords protection against attachment of pensions. It does not regulate matters such as scales of pension, grant of relief to pensioners and the procedure for sanctioning pensions which are regulated by the pension rules contained in Civil Service Regulations and various executive instructions issued from time to time. In view of this there is no proposal for the present to repeal or amend the Pensions Act, 1871.

Representation regarding Medical Examination of Seamen from Goa

3842. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether seamen from Goa have represented that they be allowed to be medically examined by any of the Port Doctors at Marinagao Port ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.