

police party, the occupant of the Jhuggi, was a suspect in a theft case and the police party had gone to apprehend him. The occupant set fire to some clothes by sprinkling kerosene oil on them as a result of which his wife sustained excessive burns. The occupant's counter version was that the police had set fire to his Jhuggi. On these two counter versions, two cases have been registered and their investigation has been entrusted to the C. I. D. Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. The result of investigations is awaited.

(f) No, Sir. The findings of the police investigations are being awaited.

Strike by Officers of Air India

3757. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the officers of the Air India have started work to rule with effect from the 2nd March, 1970;

(b) If so, the main demands of the officials;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation; and

(d) the likely loss expected to be incurred by this strike ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) The Air India Officers' Association had issued a directive to their members to 'work to rule' with effect from 2.3.1970.

(b) Revision of pay scale for the lowest level of officers.

(c) A settlement has since been reached and the directive to 'work to rule' was withdrawn by the Association on 7.3.70.

(d) No loss was suffered by the Corporation on this account.

Law and Order situation in Asansol Colliery Belt

3758. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since written to the West Bengal Chief Minister and the Home Minister asking them to ensure that law and order is maintained in the Asansol Colliery belt and that production of coal does not suffer;

(b) If so, the reaction of those Ministers thereto; and

(c) If not, the reasons for not writing to those Ministers in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) There has been a correspondence with the Chief Minister of West Bengal on this subject.

(b) Reply from the State Government has not yet been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Suggestions for Removal of Frontier Formalities for promoting Tourism

3759. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mr. J. L. Shepherd, the Chairman of the Facilitation Committee of the International Air Transport Association, has suggested to the Government of India to remove the frontier formalities in order to promote tourism ;

(b) what other suggestions were given by the said Association during their talk with the high level inter-departmental Committee on facilitation ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). On the 24th February, 1970, the International Air Transport Association's Facilitation Advisory Committee made a call on the Inter-Departmental Facilitation Committee. The following suggestions were made by them :—

(1) Elimination of passenger manifest.

(2) Elimination of tourist baggage re-export form.

(3) Elimination of currency declaration form.

(4) Streamlining in immigration services.

(5) Duty free import of ground handling equipment, and

(6) Constitution of a study group to visit certain airports abroad.

(c) These suggestions are receiving attention.

Punjab Chief Minister's Remarks about Concept of Sikh Homeland

3760. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Punjab Chief Minister's remarks in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha that the Central Government themselves were promoting the concept of a Sikh homeland by the manner they were pulling out Hindus from Punjab ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The State Government have been requested to furnish the relevant facts.

Interview for Junior Traffic Assistants held in Gauhati

3761. SHRI N. R. LASKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that interviews for the posts of Junior Traffic Assistants were held at Gauhati in November, 1969 :

(b) if so, the number of Scheduled Casts candidates who appeared for the interview ;

(c) the reasons for undue delay in selecting the candidates ;

(d) whether adequate representation will be given to the Scheduled Caste candidates in this selection ; and

(e) the number of Scheduled Caste employees working as Traffic Assistants from Assam Region ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Twenty-three candidates were interviewed at Gauhati in November, 1969 and fourteen more are to be interviewed there. Three hundred candidates are to be interviewed at Calcutta.

(b) Two have been interviewed so far.

(c) In view of the large number of candidates to be interviewed, the selections have not yet been completed.

(d) Every effort will be made in this regard.

(e) Nil.

Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Section Officers' Grade Examination

3762. SHRI KIKAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether applicable 'reservation' for the Scheduled Castes to Departmental Assistant Superintendents/Section Officers Grade Examinations from 1955 to 1963 was at 12½ per cent and if so, the reasons how non-Scheduled Castes got 775 out of total 844 vacancies filled through *i.e.* about 92 per cent vacancies ;

(b) whether Government have been promoting the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes at 35 per cent marks and non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes at 45 per cent marks and, if so, the reasons how the Scheduled Castes of 1963-Examination with 45-50 per cent marks were left-over ;

(c) what are the minimum qualifying (not selection) marks for a reserved vacancy ;