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Title: Need to solve the problems faced by Air India.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the ongoing strikes of the pilots in Air India. A number of domestic as well as international flights are cancelled. It is reported that about 65 international flights, to and fro, and also a large number of domestic flights are cancelled. This creates hardships and difficulties to the passengers to a large extent. This again leads to a huge loss to the civil aviation sector.

It is evident that we have discussed the serious problems of the civil aviation sector especially the Air India which accumulates a loss of Rs. 45,000 crore. The decision taken by the Government for the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines has not yet materialized. As a result, the employees of both the airlines, either Air India or Indian Airlines, are making really the just demands. It is not the new issues or the new demands that they are raising.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Already, yesterday, we discussed it; the Minister replied to it.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: That was with regard to the civil aviation. I am speaking about the strikes. The new Minister has come. I know that there is a court verdict that the strike is illegal. But whether it is legal or illegal, the outcome of this strike is that there is hardship caused to the people and also the loss accumulated to the civil aviation. At the same time, it benefits the private airlines. So the Government has to take a better decision because Air India is a public sector undertaking; the Government is supreme there. So there should be a better trade union relation with them. I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to settle the issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.