

rounds by scoring 1,296 points out of possibly 1,440. His achievement has brought Indian archery on the world map. We hail the achievement of this young man for bringing laurels and glory to the nation.

I am sure the House will Join me in congratulating him.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We will join you. I am asking the dynamic Sports Minister to congratulate him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I am grateful to Shri Chetan P. S. Chauhan. I think the House should pass a resolution to congratulate Shri Limba Ram.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We would congratulate him.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Everybody should congratulate him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise a very important question of public interest. In my State Bihar, Sasaram-Buxur road leads to Ballia and Gorakhpur. There is a one way traffic on this road. Hundreds of trucks pass through it and it is a very busy road. As there is one way traffic on it the road is very narrow, generally accidents take place on it. Some times these accidents are even fatal. I request the hon. Surface Transport Minister through you that this 300 kilometres long road should be declared as National highway.

[*English*]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): I am in barnued that a most serious explosion has taken place in the

Filling Section of the Ordinance Factory of Khawaria in Jabalpur.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do not you talk to the hon. Minister first? Why do you depend on that? Are you sure about it? If you are, I will allow you. Otherwise, you talk to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: At least one person has been killed so far and several others have been grievously injured.

This is not the first time that this kind of an incident has taken place in the factory at Jabalpur which is run by the Central Government. The police investigations reportedly revealed negligence in maintaining safety measures. Of late, there has been increase in negligence on the part of officers who are entrusted with supervision of ammunition and explosive Department. In fact, several instances of lack of proper supervision and control have been reported in the local press.

Many cases of pilferage of very sensitive material with the connivance of superior staff have also come o light.

I, therefore, urge upon the Defence Ministry to appoint a high-level Enquiry Committee to go into such negligence and pilferage and take appropriate action against the careless officers and to give compensation to the family of the deceased workmen and to give proper medical treatment to all those workmen who were injured in the explosion and to take adequate safety measures in future.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Air Traffic Control Officers of National Airports Authority have resorted to work to rule from 1st May while the hon. Minister has told in the House that it is not causing any loss, but the facts are contrary to it. The pilots who pilot the earoplanes are required to fill the journey log-book and the engine log-book. They are showing this work to rule by traffic control officers as the cause

of delay of their flights. The higher authorities have also admitted that one minute delay in flight leads to the wastage of fuel of 5 thousand rupees. In this way, the Government is suffering a loss of 4 crore rupees just on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you to the Government that talks should be held with these officers. These officers had given due notice. They had given their charter of demands and had informed that they would resort to work to rule from 1st May. Even then the Government is not paying any heed to them and the loss of fuel is being suffered and the air-traffic is also being delayed. Therefore, my submission, through you is that they should be invited for talks.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have given notice on this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, you will recall that the hon. Minister of agriculture had given an assurance to this House that he will send a Central team to Maharashtra to review the drought situation and to see whether Central assistance is to be given or not. It is more than ten days. It is not on one occasion but the hon. Minister gave the assurance on two occasions in the House. The team has not gone to Maharashtra yet. Maharashtra Government is waiting for some communication from the Centre. However, there is no communication. It is my understanding that the team has not even been formulated. I also understand that the hon. Minister of Finance is not willing to associate himself with the Central team. Unless the Ministry of Finance associates, the whole exercise will be infructuous. I also understand that the two teams which have gone to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat also did not have anybody from the Ministry of Finance. The Nine Finance Commission very clearly says that in case of severest of severe calamities, adequate Central assistance will come in the form of 25 per cent advance from the next year's allocation. So, I would request that a state-

ment should come stating why the team has not gone to Maharashtra. This is a very specific assurance which has been given twice. I request the hon. Minister to let us know about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, about the air Traffic Controllers' agitation, I have given a notice. Please allow me to mention about it.

Sir, all the flights are being delayed since 1st May. The Air Traffic Controllers are on agitation. They have resorted to work-to-rule. They have been appealing to the National Airports Authority for improvement in their promotional prospects and for other remuneration and perks commensurate with their job responsibility and accountability. The job of Air Traffic Controllers has been recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as also by the world experts as unique with heavy responsibility and it requires instant decision-making capability. The ILO has opined that keeping in view the responsibility, the Air Traffic Controllers more closely resemble with that of the Pilots and hence it recommended the remuneration and perks should be comparable with that of the remuneration and perks of the professional pilots. Further, the Air Traffic Controllers Guild has been appealing to the management to concede their demands, but the management is silent on that. The management is not talking to Guild, to the association.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Civil Aviation Minister should send instruction to the management so that the management could talk to the Air Controllers to end the agitation, which was resorted to by the Air Traffic Controllers. Because of that agitation, all the flights are being delayed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I would like to say something on the drought situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra are waiting for the Central team just like to chatak' bird waiting for the rain. In order to protest against the