

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