

of Assistant Engineers (Civil) in the General Wing ;

(b) whether no action has so far been taken to make appointments in accordance with the panel and *ad hoc* appointments are still continuing ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have received a representation in this regard from the Junior Engineers Association of the Corporation and if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F.H MOHSIN) : (a) to (b) . The Municipal Corporation has informed that it has received from UPSC. the panel of persons selected under the departmental quota, but no panel for direct recruits has so far been received. The panel which has been received is pending consideration with the Corporation. Till the approval of the Corporation is received, *ad hoc* appointments have to be continued. A telegraphic representation was received from the Junior Engineers Association in this regard and is being looked into

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED MALTREATMENT OF INDIAN PASSENGERS BY AIR FRANCE OFFICIALS

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch Behar) : I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

Reported assault and maltreatment of Indian passengers by Air France officials at Palam Airport.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : A regrettable incident occurred at the airport in the early hours of the 30th April when a passenger Shri J. S. Gopal accompanied by his wife and three children wanted to check in for a flight by Air France. According to the report lodged by him with the local police, he and his family had travelled

from Calcutta on an Indian Airlines service to catch the international flight at Delhi, at the airline counter, he was told to purchase airport tax tickets and an official of Air France was extremely rude to him. He protested that he had already purchased the necessary tickets but while this discussion was going on another official of Air France came and insulted his wife and hit him. He stated that he suffered an injury on his right thumb and later discovered that he had also lost his watch. Due to this incident, he and his family missed their flight. The officials of Air France also refused to give him the complaint book or endorse his tickets for any other carrier. The two officials of Air France also made reports to the police to the effect that arising out of the altercation over the purchase of airport tax tickets, the passenger was rude to them and man-handled them. According to them, he himself refused to travel by Air France.

The passenger and his family subsequently travelled by a PANAM light the next day after having given a letter to Air France to the effect that he had no claim against them. In view of the conflicting versions of the incident, I have asked the International Airports Authority to make a full enquiry into the matter.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The hon. Minister has made a statement and from the statement we find that it is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. In the end the hon. Minister said that in view of the conflicting versions of the incident he has asked the International Airports Authority to make a full enquiry into the matter. There is a big history of conflicting opinions, as the hon. Minister has stated here. What is this conflicting opinion? If the hon. Minister has taken the trouble to go into the details of the whole incident and also go back to the background, the same airport officials, the same Air France, air carrier company had committed indignant insults against Indian passengers. I have got a press clipping here ; it was also discussed in the Lok Sabha in the year 1957, on 24th July. *The Times of India* of 24th July, 1957 says that the Air France had offered "deep regret" to the Government of India for offloading an India family, a woman and her four children at Palam airport on May 25th from their London-bound Air France plane.

[Shri B. K. Das Chawdhury]

In that incident what happened? One lady and her four children were booked for London by Air France. While they reported at the counter office of Air France, they simply said: 'dirty Indians' would not be allowed to travel by the Air France officials. Ultimately they were not allowed to travel by that Air France flight. The next day they were given a separate flight by the KLM. What happened in between? Even when that passenger Mrs. Channan Singh Kaur, reported to the Air France official, not only did they not allow them to go to the aircraft but also to board the Air France transport service from the city office to Palam. While Mrs. Channan Singh Kaur reported to the Palam airport office in spite of so many requests by the police and passport officials at the airport, the Air France officials behaved in such a shocking manner. What happened later? Sensing that it might create a big row and big publicity in this matter and that it might hamper their business interests in India, they instructed one of their Punjabi officers working in Calcutta to go to Jullundur and meet some of the relations of Mrs. Chanan Kaur. One of her relations, after some allurements or other things, was sent to Manchester. Ultimately Mrs. Chanan Kaur with her four children went to Manchester. There through certain coercive measures or by allurements, whatever it may be, Air France officials took a statement and also an affidavit from Mrs. Chanan Kaur—and later it was published—stating that there was no claim for damages against Air France by her and the matter was hushed up. I would like to quote a single line from the *Times of India* of 24th July where the statement made by the then Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr. Humayun Kabir, was published. It says:

"Mr. Kabir said: These enquiries indicate that on May 24, 1957, passages were booked for London for Mrs. Chanan Kaur and her four sons by Air France service leaving Delhi on the early morning of May 26. It is stated that the party reported at the Connaught Place booking office of Air France on the evening of May 2, 1957. Air France have reported that they advised the passengers to postpone their journey—"

That was the explanation given by the Air France officials. Thereafter, the Air France officials also reported that they have received a letter from Mrs. Chanan Kaur stating clearly that there was no claim against Air France and nothing of the sort happened.

Here also you find the same thing. In this case, the passenger, Mr. J. S. Gopal, his wife and three children wanted to check in for a flight by Air France. They were not allowed to take their scheduled flight by Air France, as there were certain altercations at the counter. What was the type of altercations? The whole story has been published in the *Times of India*. It says:

"The officials also refused to endorse their tickets for any other airline in what he described as his attempt to teach the 'Indians a lesson'."

As the minister stated in his statement, there were certain altercations regarding the Air France flight. Mr. Gopal said that he and his wife and three children have purchased 5 airport tax tickets at Calcutta and it was defaced there. But they did not believe it. However, they agreed to purchase fresh airport tax tickets. Mrs. Gopal said, "I am paying all this money to purchase this fresh ticket, but kindly note it that is under protest." At that, one Air France official shouted like anything and said, to that lady, "Shut up! Otherwise, I will teach you a lesson," to which Mr. Gopal protested. Immediately, the Deputy Manager of Air France working at the airport came and hit him with his fist. The matter was reported to the airport police and a diary was made. It was also mentioned by the minister in his statement:

"The two officials of Air France also made reports to the police to the effect that arising out of the altercation over the purchased of airport tax tickets, the passenger was rude to them and manhandled them."

If they say that it has already been reported to the police by the Air France officials, it was a sheer lie; because, there are a number of persons, even our police officials, passport officials, Indian Airlines officials, other authorities and officials from other airlines, all of whom requested them not to behave in

this way. But, as reported in the press, he told all of them "mind your own business ; do not come here". This was the sort of behaviour adopted by him.

Then what happened to Shri Gopal and his family members in that they put up in a hotel in Delhi ? Next day one of his relations said that they wanted a compromise. In the afternoon, I am told, there was a compromise under duress or under coercion. Otherwise, Shri Gopal would have to lose tickets of the value of Rs. 36,000. So, Shri Gopal has written "I have no claims on them" Though the hon. Minister has mentioned it, it has to be ascertained whether there was actually a police diary and whether there was actually assault or criminal intimidation on Shri Gopal and his family members. It has to be ascertained if we come to this fact, as the hon. Minister said in his statement also, that actually Shri Gopal and his family members were not allowed to travel, if it is a matter of fact, would it not fall under the penal section on wrongful restraint ? Shri Gopal and his family had the right to proceed abroad when they purchased those tickets and when they were prevented it was definitely wrongful restraint Which is covered by the Indian Penal Code, for which action can be taken against the erring Air France officials. If that is so, why is the government keeping mum on this issue ?

This had happened on a number of occasions. Once it happened in 1961 also. I am told, though I have not the papers with me, that in 1951 also the same Air France officials misbehaved and showed great disrespect to a member of this House, the Lok Sabha. His only fault was that he wore a dhoti while travelling in that aircraft. That was his fault. He was supposed to be naked and so he was put to difficulties by the Air France officials. I would request the hon. Minister to go through that incident also. If he is not just at the moment aware of the 1957 incidents I have given the reference, he may go through all the details and he can find out what had really happened. In 1961 an hon. Member of the Lok Sabha was insulted by the Air France officials when he was travelling by an Air France aircraft.

Thirdly, in this case we find that the Air France officials have taken a vow to teach a good lesson to Indians. How long

are we to continue to tolerate this type of attitude by the officials of the foreign airlines ? Here is a clear case for taking action against them. The hon. Minister said in his statement that because of conflicting views he has simply ordered an inquiry by the officer of the International Airport Authority. I want to know from the hon. Minister what prevented him from taking action under the Indian Penal Code for wrongful restraint.

It is mentioned here that while Shri Gopal protested that he has already purchased the necessary tickets, while the altercation was going on, another official of Air France came and insulted his wife and hit him. If that is the case, if a woman was insulted and Shri Gopal was hit by the Air France officials, does it not attract the provisions of criminal assault and criminal intention to assault the modesty of a woman? Does it not attract section 509 of the Indian Penal Code? If that is so, considering all these aspects, why is it that government have not yet taken any action, nor instructed at least the Home Ministry or the police officials to take whatever drastic action is possible against the Air France officials?

I would also like to know the terms of the agreement with Air France. How many flights have we got over France and how many flights Air France can make in our country? If we find that Air France are making more flights than we have been allowed to go over France, over Paris or certain other airports within the territorial jurisdiction of France, then I think government will have to consider, at least to save the prestige of the Indian passengers stopping the Air France from having any more flights over India unless they offer an unqualified apology, because this is really a matter of great shame. If we do that, at least in future they will not take any such step. It was said in 1957—I have a cutting here—"In future we will take special care." But nothing has happened. Actually, it has happened again after 15 years. I would also request the hon. Minister to take whatever other measures that are possible. Under section 37 of the International Airports Authority Act, the International Airports Authority is authorised to take certain action. Why is this Airport Authority taking a long time in taking this action?

[Shr B. K. Das Chowdhury]

It is a very grave issue and I would request the hon. Minister to consider this to save the prestige and position of Indian passengers so that they may not be mishandled and misbehaved with at any future time.

DR. KARAN SINGH : The hon. Member has referred to the incident in 1957. I would not refer to that because I do not have those particular facts at my disposal at present.

He asks, "Why did we not take action?" Surely, before we take action, we have got to find out what the facts were. I have with me the statements which were made by Shri Gopal to the police and by the two employees of Air-France, one of whom is an Indian citizen and the other is a Frenchman. The next day we have the statement of Shri Gopal, who is a very responsible officer apparently — he is drawing Rs. 8,000 a month and he is hardly likely to be coerced in the manner in which he says he might have been. He says :—

"I have lodged a complaint against Mr. Thernisien of Air-France and Mr. J. Cruz of Air-France The matter has been discussed and fully settled and I have no claim against them or against Air-France. I am most grateful to Mr. J. Silgordo for his wonderful help in the entire matter and I am proud of it."

This is the statement which the person concerned, Shri Gopal, has made.

SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY : That is after allurement. How long could he continue that?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Certainly, any type of discourtesy is unacceptable, whether that discourtesy is by Indians to foreigners or by foreigners to Indians or by Indians to Indians for that matter. Discourtesy and rudeness, particularly where ladies are involved, are obviously unacceptable. But we should look at this in the proper perspective. The hon. Member has gone to the extent of suggesting that we take action against Air-France flights. We have bilateral relations with Air France. Air-India flights go to France regularly. I submit to the hon. Member and the House that this incident, regrettable as it is, should be looked upon in the proper perspective; it should not be blown

out of all proportion, particularly in view of the statement made by Shri. Gopal. That is why I have said that a senior official of the International Airports Authority will look into the matter, make inquiries and, if as a result of that we find that somebody has been at fault, we will certainly take whatever action is necessary.

SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY : How many flights Air-India has to France and how many flights have they to our country?

MR. SPEAKER : Flights have nothing to do with this question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I am shocked at the light manner in which our Minister of Civil Aviation has taken this entire matter. I wish to point out to him that after this incident the executive head of this organisation convened a press conference where he just tried to explain away the facts as they were. Without casting any aspersions let me say that even an intelligent journalist with an inquiring mind would have been able to give more information about the incident that has occurred than the cursory statement that the Minister had made. Even in the press conference this executive head of Air-France at Delhi behaved with journalists in a very arrogant manner and told them, "Why raise this small matter to such proportions?"

I am simply shocked to find that even the phraseology used by our Minister and by those authorities seem to be almost identical. Of course, it is coincidental.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Proper perspective.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They black perspective and probably you also black perspective.

This is only a chain of events. The story of assault is already denied by the authorities of Air-France. While this has been denied, I would like to point out to you certain facts and would like to confirm them from you. Shri Dinesh Desai of the PTI had already visited Ashoka Hotel and had seen with his own eyes the bandaged finger of a person whose name is Shri Gopal and who is the aggrieved party in this episode. While a responsible journalist sees with hi,

own eyes this person, who is actually assaulted, these authorities at a press conference say that there was no assault at all; and why do you blow up a small matter out of all proportions. I would like to know whether these are the facts. Mr. Gopal and his family were not allowed to travel by the Airlines. On some other occasion there were Indians who were told that they had put on dirty clothes and they were asked to go by another Airline. In this case they were told that these were irregularities regarding tax payment and that they cannot go by this Airline and they must go by the other one.

Now, I would compare it with similar behaviour in connection with the so-called "dirty clothes." That is another episode which can be linked with this. I am going to build up a case that there is discrimination against Indians. Some years ago, in 1957, when an Indian passenger, a lady and her four sons wanted to travel by this Airlines, they were told, "You are putting on dirty clothes. Therefore, we cannot permit you to travel by this Airlines." What were "dirty clothes" were coarse clothes. I am sure, even if Mahatma Gandhi were to travel by Air France aircraft, he would have been told that he had been putting on dirty clothes and, therefore, he could not travel by it.

On another occasion, one Member of Parliament was travelling by Air France. He was putting on a *dhott* and he was told that he was almost naked; they could not allow him to travel like that. That is why, I say, even if Mahatma Gandhi were alive today, he would have been told by Air France, "You are almost naked." Probably, the words that they are using are the same words used by Sir Wintson Churchill who also called Mahatma Gandhi as "Naked Fakir of India". But this "Naked Fakir of India" was far more powerful than all the might of British empire. Therefore, Air France authorities must also realise that if they say that because of coarse clothes, the so-called dirty clothes, they cannot allow persons to travel, we are not going to tolerate it. All the Hippies from France are travelling by this Airline. They are not told that they are almost naked and that they are putting on dirty clothes. But they are objecting to the so-called "dirty clothes" which are coarse clothes when it comes to Indians. Therefore, these things should be investigated.

There is another thing. When Mrs. Gopal intervened and expressed willingness to pay the tax amount, the clerk at the counter said, "You bloody Indians feel that this money is going in our pockets." This bad language was also used. Therefore, I am quoting him. At this stage, when Mr. Gopal intervened, the French officer intervened and he assaulted him. And now the authorities say that they are not at all responsible for all this.

I may pose another problem to the hon. Minister. He has talked so much about that statement of Mr. Gopal. I have also got a copy of that statement. There are three important aspects connected with this incident. Already, the police complaint was lodged. It is a fact. But in spite of that, I would like to find out from the hon. Minister why is it that even after the police complaint was lodged by Mr. Gopal, no F. I. R. was recorded and no case had been filed. That is one significant aspect.

Another aspect regarding this problem is that even when these complaints were recorded, in that statement which is being produced before us, he says, he was given a wonderful help and all that. If you go through the statement carefully, one paragraph of that statement says:

"The matter has been discussed and fully settled and I have no claim against them or against Air France."

Now, I would like you to go through the last portion of that statement. I do not know in which language it is written, in which script it is written. At the end, the statement is signed and something is scribbled. You cannot make any head or tail out of it. I do not know under what conditions the statement has been signed. Even in the statement, he does not say that he is withdrawing the people complaint. He only says that he will make no claim at all. As far as the police complaint is concerned, and the loss of watch is concerned, all these things do stand.

Similar things have been happening. As early as in 1964, another reputed Indian journalist had actually travelled to New York by Air France aircraft. At Rome he had misplaced his luggage. Again the same plight of ill-treatment was there A).

Madhu Dandavate

most on all these occasions the words used are "We are going to teach a lesson to Indians". If a Frenchman were to indulge in the same type of irregularity—it was really not an irregularity but the so-called irregularity he would not have been treated that way. Remember, Sir, this is not the first occasion. I do not want to repeat it. I want to point out to the hon. Minister that he should not take shelter behind the statement that has been made by Mr. Gopal. Earlier also, it was said, press clippings and photostat copies of apologies were given by Air France almost in connection with incidents of a similar nature. Therefore, all these things must be gone into and the Minister must explain to us why is it that further investigations are not being undertaken.

These are the points that I would like to know.

DR. KARAN SINGH : The hon. Member has mentioned the 1957 incident. I am not dealing with that now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a similarity. That is why I mentioned it.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, I have not said that further investigation is not taking place. In the statement I have said that I have asked the Airports Authority to make a fully inquiry into the matter.

As far as the Police is concerned, the prosecuting Deputy Superintendent of Police, Parliament Street, has given the following information :—

"The case being a non-cognizable offence, it has not been registered. It has only been entered in the daily diary of Palam Airport Police and they are making investigation."

Let me make one thing very clear. If anybody has been a fault in this, particularly if any foreigner based in India has the gumption to be rude to Indians or to insult us, I would be the very first person to take the most stern action against him. There is no question of wanting to go shelter anybody. The only point is that there are conflicting statements. Mr. Gopal gives one statement to the Police, the French employees give

another statement to the Police, the next day Mr. Gopal gives the statement which the hon. Member has read out.

About the point of airport tax ticket—it is an important one—it apparently was claimed. I made, particularly, an enquiry and I found that, by PANAM, fresh airport tax tickets were purchased. In other words, those airport tax tickets which were with the tickets originally, did not apparently prove to be suitable and fresh tickets had to be purchased. We have to get to the bottom of the matter before we pass a judgment on it. As far as I am concerned, as Minister, I have instructed my officials. If we find, as a result of inquiry, that anybody is at fault, particularly a foreigner, we will certainly take whatever action we may consider necessary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Air France authorities actually approached a number of journalists after this incident and tried to pressurize them and request them not to publish these reports. Thanks to the integrity of the journalists, the matter was brought to the notice of the public.

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is a very serious matter. I do not know about that. If the hon. Member has any information about the pressurizing activities, he may furnish the same to us.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रम्मी जल गई लेकिन टैंशन नहीं गई। यह कहाने फ्रांसीसी साम्राज्यवादियों के साथ लगता है कि अभी भी कायम है। शायद फ्रांस के कुछ अफसरान अभी भी समझते हैं कि वह दुनिया पर राज्य कर रहे हैं, हिन्दुस्तान उनकी कालोनी है। अगर ऐसी बात उनकी समझ में नहीं होती तो बारबार इग तरह की घटनाएँ उसी एअर-फ्रांस के द्वारा नहीं होतीं। जैसा कि अभी यहां कहा गया है कि 1957 में घटना घटी, 1961 में पार्लियामेन्ट के एक मेम्बर के साथ घटी और अब ता० 30 को श्री गोपाल और उनके परिवार के साथ घटी। इसे अन्गज़ लगना है कि उनके दिमाग अभी बदले नहीं हैं, हालांकि दुनिया बदल गई है उनका बेश बदल रहा है, लेकिन ये लोग बदल नहीं

पा रहे है। ऐसी स्थिति में जब वह हमारे देश के नागरिकों की प्रतिष्ठा पर चोट करते है, आघात पहुंचाने है, हमारी मर्यादा को भंग कर हमारा अपमान करते है, ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे सामने उनके विरुद्ध मरुन से मरुन कार्यवाही करने के विवाध कोई दूसरा चारा नहीं होना चाहिए। लेकिन अफसोस है कि इस बात को मानते हुए भी कि उन्होंने जो पहली रिपोर्ट शुरू में दी थी जिसका आपने बबान किया उसमें यह पता चलना है कि उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया गया, उनकी पत्नी को घृसा मारा गया, उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार हुआ और बाद को वे पलट जाते है किमी वजह में तो आप बाद वाली बात को ज्यादा महत्व दे रहे है, पहले का उनका जो स्टेटमेंट है उसका महत्व नहीं दना चाहते जबकि उसको सबसे पहले महत्व दना चाहिए। यदि आप पहली बात को महत्व दते है तो फिर इक्वायरी की क्या आवश्यकता है ? यह बात साफ है कि फासीसी अफसरों ने दुर्व्यवहार किया और दो बार पहले भी कर चुके है इसलिए हमें और विश्वास हो जाना चाहिए तथा कि फंदर इक्वायरी की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए बल्कि उनके खिलाफ कुछ होना चाहिए। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरह की घटना बार-बार आगे घटती चली जाये और हम हिन्दुस्तान के लोग इस तरह से अपनी इज्जत को गवाते रहे यह हमारे लिए उचित नहीं होता। तो पहली बात यह है कि आपने उनके खिलाफ कोई ऐक्शन फौरन क्यों नहीं लिया ? दूसरे अगर आपको कोई बड़ा ऐक्शन लेने में कठिनाई है तो दो अफसरों को, जिनका आपने जिक्र किया है उनको यहां से मेहरबानी करके ट्रांसफर तो करवा सकते है कि भाई आप अपने घर जाइये और कोई भले अफसर गेटा पर आये—इसमें आपको कौन सी कठिनाई है ? क्या आपत्ति है कि उनको आप आपस भेजना नहीं चाहते है ? तीसरी बात यह है कि भविष्य में इस प्रकार की घटना न घटे इसकी गारन्टी आप किस तरह से लेना चाहते

है ? क्या उनसे इस तरह की को बचाना आपने पूछी है या नहीं कि भविष्य में इस तरह की बात न हो क्योंकि तीन बार यह बात हो चुकी है ? और इसमें कम से कम चीज जा माफी मांगने की है उन्होंने अभी तक माफी भी नहीं मागी है तो उनसे माफी मांगवाने में क्या कठिनाई है ?

आखिरी बात यह है कि ऐयर फ्रांस के हवाई जहाज दिल्ली में भी चलते है और बम्बई में भी चलते है और आपक केवल पेरिस में चलते है तो इस तरह की आवृत्तिया आपने की है उसमें हम विदेशी मुद्रा का भी घाटा होना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा अनइक्वल समझौता जो आपने किया है उसका कारण क्या है और अब इसको रेमिडी करने के लिए कौन सी कार्यवाही करना चाहते है ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर कोई ऐयर फ्रांस या दुनिया का अफसर आपके कि भारतवर्ष अभी तक कालोनी है तो उसको केवल पागलखाने में भेज कराने के विवाध और कोई जवाब नहीं है। यदि किमी को फासी भी देनी हो तो कम से कम पता तो लगना चाहिए कि इसमें तथ्य क्या है ? इसीलिए मैंने विनम्र प्रार्थना की कि यह बड़ी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना हुई, हजारों पसेजर्स चलते है, ऐसी एक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना हो गई और उसके विषय में हम जांच करवा रहे है...(व्यवधान)...जी हां, हमारे पास सब रिपोर्ट्स है, स्टेटमेंट्स है।
...(व्यवधान)

श्री बीनेन भट्टाचार्य (मीरमपुर) : प्राइम-फेसी चार्ज तो उनके खिलाफ है।

डा० कर्ण सिंह : पुलिम भी इन्वेस्टिगट कर रही है और हमारी ऐयरपोर्ट एथारिटीज भी देख रही है। इसके बाद कुछ हुआ नहीं उनको बुलाया जा सकता है, डाटा जा सकता है और कहा जा सकता है या जो भी आवश्यक और उचित कार्यवाही होगी वह की जायेगी।

[डा० नर्या सिंह]

में उचित कार्यवाही के विषय में यही कह रहा हूँ कि जो भी उचित कार्यवाही होगी वह करेंगे लेकिन पहले हमें पता लग जाये कि स्थिति क्या है। यह एक आध दिन में पता लग जायेगा क्योंकि इसमें कोई लम्बी चौड़ी बात नहीं है।

जहाँ तक माननीय सदस्य ने यह कहा कि ऐयर फ्रांस के जहाज यहाँ चलते हैं और हमारे वहाँ, मैं आपसे स्पष्ट अर्ज कर दूँ कि ऐयर इंडिया के जहाज भी पैरिस से जाते हैं और उममे हमें काफी लाभ होता है। इसलिए जहाँ तक एग्जीमेन्ट का प्रश्न है उससे यह नहीं है कि उनको अधिक लाभ हो और हमको कम लाभ हो।

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi) : This is a very serious incident and it is an insult to Indian honour. The French left India after Independence with good grace and they gave up their colonies like Chandernagore, Pondicherry, etc. We know the French people love fraternity, equality and liberty. They are also known as a chivalrous people. But when we find that these things are happening off and on it seems that there are some officials who still inherit the spirit of imperialism and colonialism. Otherwise they would not have dared to insult our Indian people in our own country. The hon. Minister has said many things. I would ask him whether he will take it more seriously and take drastic action to see that these incidents never happen again.

DR. KARAN SINGH: As I said, we are taking it seriously and whatever action is necessary we will certainly take.

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर (केसरिया) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि इस बात को बहुत ज्यादा तूल नहीं देना चाहिए। हिन्दुस्तान और फ्रांस के सम्बन्ध बिगड़ जाये ऐसी कोई बात नहीं करनी चाहिए। लेकिन इस बात से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि जो घटना घटी है उसके चलते हिन्दुस्तान में बहुत घृणा पैदा हुई है और बहुत रोष पैदा हो गया है कि ऐसी घटना विदेशियों के जरिए क्यों हिन्दुस्तान में होती है। बहुत

मेम्बरों ने बताया है कि यह पहली घटना नहीं है बल्कि कई बार ऐसी घटना हुई हैं। तो क्या आप इस सम्बन्ध में कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं कि ऐसे तमाम विमान पत्तनों पर आपके ऐसे उच्चाधिकारी रहें जिनको उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त हों जोकि ऐसे भारतीयों को जोकि विदेशी विमानों में जाते हैं सारी बातों की सुविधा प्रदान कर सकें? आपने ऐसे अधिकारी रखे हैं लेकिन उनको वह अधिकार नहीं दिए हैं इसलिए क्या आप ऐसे अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने जा रहे हैं जोकि भारतीय लोगों को जो विदेशी विमानों से यात्रा करे उनको तमाम सुविधायें दे सकें और उनके साथ ऐसी कोई इन्सुल्ट की बात न हो सके?

दूसरे—इस घटना में जो रोष पैदा हो रहा है उसको देखते हुए यदि आप अपनी कार्यवाही में शीघ्रता नहीं लायेंगे तो पता नहीं उन अधिकारियों का घेराव होगा या क्या होगा इसलिए आज देश की भावना को देखते हुए उसको फ्रांस की सरकार तक पहुँचाये कि भविष्य में ऐसी घटना नहीं होनी चाहिए। साथ ही ऐसे अधिकारियों को आप नियुक्त करें जोकि भारतीय यात्रियों को जोकि विदेशों की यात्रा करते हैं उनको सुविधायें पहुँचा सके और इस प्रकार का दुर्व्यवहार उनके साथ न होने पाये इस बात की गारन्टी होनी चाहिए।

इसके साथ ही हम शास्त्री जी की इस मांग से सहमत हैं कि ऐसे अधिकारी को यहाँ से विदा किया जाये।

डा० नर्या सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक कहा कि इस प्रकार की जो दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटनायें होती हैं उनसे भावना दूषित होती है। मुझे भी यही आशा है कि इस प्रकार की घटना फिर नहीं होगी।

जहाँ तक प्रश्न है इटरनेशनल ऐयरपोर्ट एथारिटी का वह हमने किया है, चार अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई पत्तन का जो प्रबन्ध है उसको बे सुदृढ़ करें। और यह जो सुभाव है कि जो

भारतीय यात्री दूसरे हवाई जहाजों पर चढ़ते हैं उनकी सुविधा के लिए क्या कोई विशेष कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं तो यह बड़ा अच्छा सुझाव है और इस पर हम अवश्य ध्यान देंगे।

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

THIRTEENTH REPORT

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts) : I beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.38 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

TARIFF COMMISSION'S REPORT ETC. RE FIXATION OF SALE PRICE OF THE STANDARD CAR

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951 :-

(i) Report (1969) of the Tariff Commission of the fixation of fair selling prices of Automobiles-Standard Herald Passenger car 4-Door model.

(ii) Government Resolution No. 1(79)/69-A. E. Ind. (1) dated the 19th April, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) notifying Government's decisions on the above Report. [Placed in Library See. No. LT-1917/72].

(1) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons as to why the documents mentioned above could not be laid on the Table within the period prescribed in sub-section (2) of section 16 of the said Act.

(3) A statement (Hindi and English version) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the Report mentioned at (1)(i) above simultaneously.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT-1917/72]

12.39 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

LOCK-OUT IN THE HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY AT AVADI

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : You are aware that lock-out has been declared in the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi. The production of Vyjayantha tanks has been stopped. Not only this, 5 000 workers working there have been rendered idle. Yesterday I spoke on the Defence Ministry's Demands for Grants. I said, the industrial relations in the particular factory at Avadi had deteriorated beyond expectation. Serious notice should be taken by the Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : Under what rule is he raising it ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under Rule 377. So, how is it that a factory which has earned tremendous fame at the national as well as the international level for manufacturing the Vijayanta tank is facing industrial unrest ? Workers belonging to the various unions, especially affiliated to us and the INTUC, met the Minister of Defence Production a month before. Shri M. Kalyanasundaram, Shri K. Gopal and I were present, and I must say that the Minister of Defence Production gave us a patient hearing and ultimately ordered that Gen. Kini who is the general manager of that particular factory should start negotiations at the plant level at Avadi. The negotiations were started and they were going on. But suddenly they stopped. May I know why they stopped ?

Formerly, there was the general manager, Mr. Sondhi. Not a day's interruption of work was there. But what has been happening since the general manager, Gen. Kini has taken over ? Without imputing any motives to him I may say that the