

[Mr. Speaker]

“Mr Swell’s angiography”

—I think it is a medical term—

“entirely satisfactory and he is likely to leave the hospital within a week stop a further stay for some duration in London would be desirable stop the period of stay will be communicated soon stop”.

We are so happy to learn about it.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah) : I beg to present the Hundred and thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance—Transfer of Budget Provision for certain items of expenditure :

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

TWELFTH REPORT

SHRI BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Department of Petroleum)-Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gauhati Oil Refinery.

PETITION RE. APPLICABILITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT, 1947 TO MEDICAL AND SALES REPRESENTATIVES

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : I beg to present a petition

signed by SHRI M. I. K. Muthalaly, Trivandrum, and others, regarding applicability of the Industrial Disputes Act; 1947 to Medical and Sales Representatives.

13.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SITUATION CREATED BY THE AGITATION OF INDIAN AIRLINES PILOTS

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : On the 7th December I made a statement in this House on the situation created by some pilots of Indian Airlines represented by the India Commercial Pilots Association. The House will recall that on the 2nd December the Management reached an agreement with the Association in conciliation proceedings before the Chief Labour Commissioner, under which the Association agreed to withdraw its directive prohibiting its members from participating in further training connected with the Boeing Project, and restore normal functioning of the air services with immediate effect. The Management agreed to consider withdrawing the suspension order passed against one of its pilots. The Management and the Association also agreed to recommence bilateral discussions in regard to service conditions, wage structure etc. I am placing a copy of the agreement on the Table of the House.

In view of this agreement, it was hoped that the pilots would resume all their normal functions immediately. The pilots of the Bombay Region, however, continued to refuse to fly the HS-748 aircrafts alleging defects affecting safety. Of the 14 HS-748 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines six are based in Bombay and the pilots of the Bombay Region initially picked out two as having defects, but refused to fly any of them. The Management was satisfied that these aircraft were, in fact, entirely safe, but in order to place the matter beyond any doubt arrangements were made in consultation with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited—the manufacturers of the

planes in India—to have them tested by HAL's Test Pilot. Two aircraft were test-flown by the 5th and a signed report was given by the Test Pilot as follows :—

“The flight tests carried out by the HAL Test Pilot have revealed that the safety standards with regard to the aircraft performance are being met satisfactorily.

Other aspects of the aircraft behaviour which do not affect safety have also been checked, and the results are under examination.”

Subsequently, by the 6th two more planes were test-flown with the same result.

In the light of these very clear findings that the HS-748 were entirely safe, the Management expected the pilots to resume services. Unfortunately, they still refused to fly them. A senior officer of Indian Airlines was deputed to Bombay to discuss matters with the pilots in the presence of the HAL Test Pilot and technical officers of the Civil Aviation Department which is responsible for certification of airworthiness of civil aircraft. The pilot, however, still remained adamant.

In these circumstances, the Management had no alternative but to take appropriate disciplinary measures. 34 HS-748 pilots of the Bombay Region and 7 of the Madras Region have placed under suspension and charge-sheeted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Very good.

DR. KARAN SINGH : It has, however, been made clear that if the pilots are willing to resume services the suspensions will be withdrawn, but not the charge-sheets. In addition the Police have arrested 2 pilots under the provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Act...(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Is that how you propose to run your Airlines? You will make a mess of everything... ..(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH : Even the services operated with types of aircraft other than the HS-748 have now been seriously dislocated throughout the country

by pilots offering flimsy pretexts such as sudden sickness or minor snags in the aircraft not affecting safety. Yesterday, the pilots in the Calcutta Region went on a lightning strike and services in the Madras Region were also badly disrupted.

The House will be interested to know that the HS-748 manufactured in India has an excellent record of accident-free service. The aircraft have logged thousands of hours in commercial flights under the command of the very pilots who are now casting doubts on their performance and who have themselves made thousands of take-offs and landings on scheduled flights. The Director General of Civil Aviation has confirmed that the performance of the planes is well above the minimum airworthiness requirements prescribed for this type of aircraft in the approved flight manual and by the International Civil Aviation Organization. (Interruption). The conclusion is thus inescapable that the trouble created by the pilots over the HS-748 is little more than a device with which to pressurize the Management to accept their demands.

I am sure the House will fully support us in our efforts to restore the situation to normal. (Interruption). I am deeply conscious of the fact that acute inconvenience and loss is being caused to many thousands of people as the result of this totally unwarranted stand adopted by a sanction of the pilots. I sincerely hope that in the national interest this ill-advised action will be withdrawn and normal services restored immediately — — — — — (Interruption)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIAN AIRLINES AND THE INDIAN COMMERCIAL PILOTS ASSOCIATION (REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT)

In the light of the prolonged discussions held by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) with the representatives of the management of Indian Airlines and the Indian Commercial Pilots

Shri Karan Singh]

Association on 2nd December, 1970, at New Delhi, it is agreed as follows:—

(1) The I.C.P.A. will extend its full co-operation for restoration of normalcy in the air service with immediate effect within the existing rules;

(2) The Association will withdraw its directive No. Cal/GS/CIR:562-70, dated 23-11-70 and co-operate with the Management in the Boeing-737 Training Programme.

(3) The Management will consider the lifting of suspension of Capt. Nigam with immediate effect;

(4) The Management will consider the two Pilots concerned for Boeing-737-Training as early as possible.

(5) The dispute referred to chief Labour Commissioner (Central) along with the Union's case for implementation of the 9th May, 1970 agreement will be negotiated bilaterally between the parties in order to arrive at a settlement as expeditiously as possible.

Indian Airlines

Indian Commercial Pilots Association

Sd/- B. Israni
Asstt. General Manager
New Delhi,
2nd December, 1970.

Sd/- S. L. Bagchi

Witnesses :

1. Sd/-
2. Sd/-

Sd/- (O. Venkatachalam)
Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)

13-07 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (MANIPUR), 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Union territory of Manipur for 1970-71.

thing but it was not signed by anybody. Then I called Shri Kisku also. There was some discussion. Then they shook hands and I wrote on the file that the matter was closed. Now, overnight something may have happened again.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Oraon has again got up. I request him kindly to sit down once he shook hands.

RE. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SHRI A. K. KISKU

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : Sir, I want to know from you as to what has happened to my petition about the allegation that was made by my brother, Shri Kartik Oraon.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : At last I should be heard.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall hear you in my Chamber.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : I want to say something. It will not complicate it further.

MR. SPEAKER : No declaration of a fresh war, please.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) :
rose—

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Unfortunately I cannot get Reverend P. Kerketta, S. J., Archbishop of Roman Catholic Mission, Ranchi to give evidence here on my behalf. That does not mean that he

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Oraon should not get up. He will further complicate it. I called Shri Oraon. He gave me some-