

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE  
ORDINANCE

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has already made a statement regarding the situation that was created on account of the notices which were served by a number of service associations. In order to meet that situation, a Bill was introduced on the 3rd of August. Considering the urgency of the matter, it was taken up by the House on the 5th and 6th. As the Rajya Sabha is not in session and it is not yet clear whether we can maintain the essential services without having recourse to the provisions which have now been embodied in the Ordinance and which formed part of the original Bill, it became unavoidable to request the President to issue an Ordinance. I am placing a copy of the Ordinance promulgated by the President on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No S-170/57]. I may also inform the House that an Order concerning the P & T and Aviation service has also been issued under the Ordinance.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASHOKA HOTELS  
LIMITED

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the First Annual Report on the working of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi, together with the audited statement of accounts for the year ended the 30th September, 1956 [Placed in Library See No S-168/57].

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-  
ANCERE. TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF  
INSPECTORS OF LIFE INSURANCE  
CORPORATION

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon —

“Termination of services of many Inspectors under the Life Insurance Corporation after the introduction of new appointment letters retrospectively from the 1st September, 1956”

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The Life Insurance Corporation took over from the former insurers nearly 5,000 salaried members of the field staff. In addition, the Corporation appointed as Inspectors about 1,100 persons from amongst the field staff who were working on commission basis. There have been a few resignations and as a result, the Corporation has got on its pay roll at present approximately 6,000 persons as Inspectors. Categorisation of these officers was considered impracticable soon after setting up of the Corporation in view of the differences that existed under the former insurers, in the standard of, training, business production terms of appointment and other matters. It was decided that the field staff will be categorised on the basis of their work over a year under uniform conditions under the Corporation. The categorisation will thus be undertaken in October, 1957. In the meantime, their services are being continued on more or less the same terms as previously. The Corporation has not terminated any one's services excepting where the business record of the person was very poor and it was clear that he was evincing no interest in his work. Before actual termination of services, adequate warning has been given and the response watched. This Ministry is not

[Shri B R Bhagat]

aware of any growing discontent among the field workers as is alleged. It would be truer to say that the salaried members of the field staff have settled down to work enthusiastically under the new conditions and are bringing in a good volume of business. In these circumstances, retention of staff who do not pull their way would be detrimental to the morale of the remaining members.

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS—contd

Mr. Speaker The House will now resume further discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Out of 9 hours allotted for the Demands of this Ministry, 7 hours have already been availed of and 2 hours now remain.

The list of selected cut motions relating to these Demands, which were treated as having been moved, had already been circulated to Members on the 2nd August, 1957.

How long does the hon. Minister propose to take?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): At 1-15 or 1-30.

Mr. Speaker: Forty-five minutes? I will call upon the Minister of Transport and Communications to reply to the debate at 1-30, after which the cut motions will be disposed of and the demands put to vote.

Shri Raj Bahadur may continue his speech.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Mr. Speaker, when the House rose the other day, I was referring to the events that happened before the strike notice was served. In particular, I made a mention of the annual conference of the Federation that

was held towards the end of last year at Hyderabad. At that conference, we know that the charter of demands was there. Up till that time, no formal communication had been received by us for discussion. But, I had submitted that day that I announced the Government's decisions in respect of quite a few items, important in nature, and made a special plea for the creation of a new climate and a new atmosphere for the settlement of the demands of the workers. I urged that the union need not resort to agitation or threats of strike for the settlement of disputes but could discuss matters across the table and come to a settlement. I think the announcements that I made and the concessions that we gave at that time appealed to the workers and they took notice of them in their own resolution of journals.

Soon after the conference, that is, in the month of January, I received a request for discussing these demands. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the item pertaining to the Assam Compensatory Allowance was included in the charter of demands, on that item some P & T employees threatened to go on strike in the Assam State. The strike, despite the efforts, I should acknowledge, on the part of union leaders, too came about but was called off in two or three days' time.

Soon after the strike was called off we discussed this question of Assam Compensatory Allowance and certain other matters of a general nature which formed the subject-matter of various items in the charter of demands. That was in the month of February, perhaps the beginning of that month. At that meeting we also agreed that during the course of the electioneering campaign, it would not be possible for us to meet again and we fixed the next meeting in the month of March. In March when we met we took up discussion of the demands *seriatim*. The meetings were

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.