

PROPOSED STRIKE BY P & T EMPLOYEES

Shri Sanganna (Koraput—Reserved—Sch Tribes). Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Transport and Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon —

“Proposed strike by Post and Telegraph employees and steps being taken to avert it”

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): Sir, I beg to lay a statement on the Table

Statement

The Honourable Members will recall that on May 22nd, 1957 I had made a statement on the question of “go slow” movement by the telegraphists of the P & T Department. Later reports indicate that the position has not yet returned to normal in some of the larger telegraph offices in the UP, Madras and Bihar Circles

As the Honourable Members may be aware further, the Federation of the P and T Employees had submitted a fairly large number of demands in the shape of a Charter and these have been the subject of discussion between Shri Raj Bahadur Ji, Minister of State and the representatives of the Federation. I also propose to meet their representatives at New Delhi in the second week of June. Up-to-date, Government have had no official intimation of any intention on the part of P & T Employees to change over from the method of negotiations to that of strike

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF SALARY BY WORKERS OF NO 2 WING, IAF STATION, POONA

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

“Non-acceptance of salary for the month of April, 1957 by the

workers of No 2 Wing, IAF Station, Poona”

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia). Sir, I beg to lay a statement on the Table

Statement

Early this month, the IAF Kamgar Union, Poona, informed the Ministry that the civilian employees of No 2 Wing, IAF Station, Poona, were unwilling to accept their pay for the month of April, 1957, on account of the withholding of the payment of house rent allowance from their salary for the month of April, 1957. According to the information received upto the 27th May, 1957, 460 Class IV employees out of a total of 520 originally refused to accept their pay. Of these 460, 230 employees have since received their pay.

2 Government have constructed 259 quarters for Class IV employees of No 2 Wing, IAF Station, Poona. These quarters were offered to Class IV employees of the IAF Station but they refused to accept them. As the quarters in question were specifically constructed for the Class IV employees of the IAF Station, Poona, their refusal to occupy these quarters should result in the forfeiture of house-rent allowance. It may be stated that house rent allowance is not admissible to Government servants who are eligible for Government accommodation and to whom such accommodation has been offered and has been refused by them. Accordingly, house rent allowance has not been paid for the month of April, 1957, to such of the employees of the establishment who have refused Government accommodation offered to them. The demand of the employees that they should be continued to be paid house rent allowance notwithstanding their refusal to occupy the Government accommodation offered to them is not justified in view of the fact that the Government having specifically provided accommodation for these employees, at considerable expenditure to the State Exchequer,