

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,

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cannot at the same time continue to pay house rent allowance to such employees.

**REFUSAL BY DELHI ADMINISTRATION
OF OFFER OF T. B. ASSOCIATION TO
CONSTRUCT A HALL.**

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Health to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Refusal by Delhi Administration of T.B. Association offer to construct a hall for T.B. patient."

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): Sir, I beg to lay a statement on the Table.

Statement

In November, 1956, the Delhi State Tuberculosis Association informed the Delhi Administration that, by a Resolution, the Association had decided to pay Rs. 1,50,000 to the Delhi Administration for the construction of a hutment-type ward for 150 T.B. patients in the premises of the Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital, Kingsway, Delhi. This offer was examined by the Delhi Administration in consultation with the Director of Health Services, Delhi, but they could not accept the offer as it stood, because there was no provision in the Delhi State Plan for maintenance of an additional ward of 150 beds in the Silver Jubilee T.B. Hospital, the annual expenditure of which was expected to be over Rs. 2 lakhs. Further, it was felt that the type of ward which could accommodate 150 beds and put up at a cost of only Rs. 1,50,000, would call for correspondingly heavy expenditure in the way of maintenance and annual repairs. In the circumstances, the Delhi Administration regretfully de-

lined the offer. At the same time, they informed the Association through the Director of Health Services, Delhi, in March, 1957 that if the Association had no objection, they would be glad to accept the donation if it could be utilised for the purchase of hospital equipment, etc., for the beds already existing in the T.B. Hospital. No reply has so far been received by the Delhi Administration to this suggestion. However, the Honorary Secretary of the Association informally discussed the matter with the Delhi Administration authorities a few days ago and explained that there was a recently constructed ward which had not been brought into use and if that ward could be suitably named to represent the people's efforts in collecting funds through the T.B. seals' sale, the Association would be willing to make the donation. A formal communication on the subject from the Delhi State T.B. Association is awaited by the Delhi Administration.

**ARREST OF TWO MEMBERS AND
CONVICTION OF A MEMBER**

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 30th May, 1957 from the Judicial Magistrate, Agra:—

"Shri Braj Raj Singh, Member, Lok Sabha, taken in custody under my orders at 4-15 p.m. today, under sections 143/186/228, Indian Penal Code. Formal letter follows."

I have also to inform the House that I have received the following wireless message dated the 30th May, 1957 from the District Magistrate, Etawah:—

"Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria, Member, Lok Sabha, has been arrested today under sections 447/448/188, I.P.C."