

law but only because of Government's policy. What are you going to do with the retrenched workers? Where are you going to re-employ them and in what period will you do it?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I don't think it is correct to say that when this was handed over to the External Affairs Ministry, it was having full occupancy and all that. However, the Government would certainly make use of the provisions of law to help the workers in the manner in which they should be helped.

Luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport

*567. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA†:**
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some loaders were involved in the luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them; and

(c) the details of arrangements made to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). Consequent upon the complaints lodged by two passengers who travelled on Indian Airlines flight ID- 263 (Calcutta-Delhi sector) of the 9th of January 1989 and flight IC- 221 (Calcutta-Bagdogra sector) of the 6th of January, 1989 about the theft of ornaments and the missing of currency respectively from their registered baggages, the police at Dum Dum (Calcutta) airport arrested seven loaders of Indian Airlines. The case is under investigation by the police.

(c) Strict vigilance is maintained over passengers' baggage and whenever any act of pilferage comes to the notice of the Indian Airlines it is investigated and disciplinary action taken.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I seek your protection Sir. My question was whether some loaders were involved in the luggage theft racket at Calcutta Airport, and whether there is any involvement of some employees of the Airport. But the reply is not to the point that I wanted to know from the Minister. I would like to know whether the Government has found out any racket in that Airport.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The investigations have revealed that some loaders were involved and when their lockers were searched some bunches of keys were found which were used to open these baggages. Police have been informed about the people who were involved and action is taken.

I would not like to tar everybody with the black brush. I have given him instances in which some loaders were involved and inferences can be drawn by him from these facts.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has stated that some measures have been taken to have a strict vigilance. I would like to know whether these types of instances are also noticed in some other Airports also. This news has come out because the ornaments stolen belonged to the famous actress Supriya Devi. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of such instances in other Airports also and what concrete measures the Government proposes to take to stop them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In other Airports also one or two cases have been brought to our notice; but this is a very glaring case where ornaments worth Rs. 4 lakhs are

involved. We are taking steps to see that this does not happen.

At the same time, it is necessary that costly things are not carried in the baggage. If they are carried in the baggage, the Airport authorities have to be informed that those things are carried in the baggage. They may have to pay some extra charges for that so that those things are separated and put in some other place. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees are carried in suitcases and the authorities in the Airport are unaware of these facts. It sometimes becomes difficult to give protection also. So, costly things have to be carried in their hands, not in the baggage which is kept like that. This is the difficulty. All the same, we are looking into this matter and we are going to provide as much safety as is possible.

Fire in Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur

*568. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the quantum of losses due to fire in 1987 in the textile wing of the Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur;

(b) the details of the investigating agencies that conducted enquiries into the fire in 1987 in the Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur; and

(c) the action taken against those found responsible for the fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The fire which occurred in one of the sheds of Light Textile section of Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEF), Kanpur on the night of 17th and 18th May, 1987 (sunday) was investigated into by two Boards of Enquiry.

2. The preliminary Board of Enquiry constituted by the General Manager, OEF, Kanpur on 18.5.87 was chaired by Shri K. P. Singh, Joint General Manager with Shri G.P. Sinha, Deputy General Manager and Shri Mahesh Gupta, Works Manager as Members. The preliminary enquiry report was sent to Additional Director General Ordnance Factories, OEF Group Hqrs., Kanpur who thereupon appointed a regular Board of Enquiry on 4-6-87 with Shri C.K. Gupta, Director Vigilance, OEF Group Hqrs., Kanpur as Chairman with Shri V.P. Chandna, Joint Director (Project), OEF Group Hqrs., and Shri R. K. Singh, Accounts Officer, OEF Group Hqrs as members. The second committee finalised its report on 17.7.87.

3. The damage to building, electric wiring, material etc. has been assessed at Rs. 1,16,650.

4. The undermentioned staff, who were found negligent in detecting and putting out the fire quickly, were proceeded against:—

(a) One security Assistant Grade 'A' incharge of security in night shift.

(b) One Security Assistant Grade 'B' on duty as Gate-Keeper near Weigh Bridge