

they are noting down these numbers. Have they ever used them by dialling the passengers when the flight is unduly delayed? Will they take the trouble of intimating the passengers so that they will not have to go to the airport much in advance and waste time there? Again, about the flight from Bhubneswar to Delhi, will there really be a direct flight without any stoppage in between?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As regards the suggestion of the hon. Member, when the telephone number is given, I think, information should be passed on to the passengers if there is usually delay. If that is not being done, we shall see that this is done. (*Interruptions*) I do agree that if this is not done, we shall see that this is done. As regards the additional direct flight, Indian Airlines is trying to acquire two more aircrafts. When they come, this will be considered.

Strike by the employees of the Indian Express, New Delhi

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*235. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the daily "The Indian Express", New Delhi have gone on indefinite strike;

(b) if so, the reasons for their strike;

(c) their main demands and grievances; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Indian Express Employees Union have gone on strike with effect from 14.10.1987 as they claim that no action has been taken on their charter of demands.

(c) A Statement containing the charter of demands is given below.

(d) The Labour Machinery of the Delhi Administration has held discussions with the parties on 13.10.1987, 23.10.1987 and 28.10.1987.

STATEMENT

List of Demands raised by the Indian Express Employees Union, Delhi

1. Milk allowance.
2. Subsidized Canteen.
3. Medical Allowance.
4. Automation Allowance.
5. Education Allowance.
6. L.T.C.
7. Withdrawal of suspension of 4 union activists.
8. Revocation of transfer of one worker.
9. Sound recruitment and promotion policy.
10. Abolition of Contract Labour.
11. Regularisation of temporary and causal staff.
12. First-aid and Dispensary.
13. Recreation Room.
14. Rest Room.
15. Room for the union office.
16. Remedial of fitments of Palekar Award to packing & other Staff.
17. Payment of Gratuity on last working day.
18. Complimentary copies to all workers.

19. Appointment of dependents of the deceased workers.
20. Fire prevention measures.
21. Supply of filtered drinking water.
22. Treatment of the staff of ENP as the workers of newspaper.
23. Increase in conveyance allowance to journalists.
24. 20% Bonus.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, has it come to the notice of the Government of India that there has been a settlement between the workers' union and the management? If so, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the employees have resumed duty or not?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, so far as our record shows, there is no resumption of duty yet. But it is stated by the management and also by the employees that they are signing attendance at a place different from the place of work.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, I would like to know what are the demands on which the employees and the management have agreed to after calling off the strike. May I know whether the President of that union has been removed before entering into an agreement?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, so far as the management and the employees' union are concerned, there has not been any agreement as such. But we have received from the employers an answer to the point of the charter of demands as made by the workmen, and those answers indicate how far they can go and how far they cannot go. This is the position.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, I wanted to know whether the President of the Association, who was previously supported by the Congress Party, has been removed or whether he is still heading the Association.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, so far as the President and the General Secretary are concerned, we received confusing reports. The President has reported that one or two General Secretaries have been removed, and then the Delhi Administration got a letter that the President has been removed. This dispute, as you know, Sir, can only be decided by a civil court. This is a registered union. So far as the status of the president, or the General Secretaries, or other members is concerned, it has to be decided by a civil court. We have not received any orders.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several business houses run their own newspapers. If at any time a raid is conducted on their premises and they are found to be evading taxes, they criticise the Government alleging that the Press has been assaulted. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any recommendations from the Press Commission regarding de-linking business part from the editorial part of the business houses who run newspapers? If so, whether the Government want to implement the recommendations pertaining to de-linking of business part from editorial part of the newspapers being run by big business houses?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, this, in my submission, does not arise out of this question. This is regarding recommendation of the Press Commission and the acceptance of it.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, I would like to know whether on this issue the Labour Ministry has interfered and called any tripartite conference, or whether any of our conciliation machineries has moved in this matter, and whether such machinery had any serious discussion to settle the Indian Express dispute in Delhi. I would like to have a clear answer to this as to what has the Government done in this respect.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: The decision is this Sir. This being a non-utility service, there is a specific procedure laid down under the Act and the rules. When a notice was received from the employees' union on 9th of October, steps were immediately taken to make a settlement before starting conciliation proceedings because the experience of the Labour Minister and the Delhi Administration shows that many of the disputes are settled before starting the actual conciliation proceedings as envisaged under the Act. Then, Sir, Saturday and Sunday were holidays. 12th was Monday and on 13th they have had the sitting. On that day, unfortunately, the management raised an objection to the President's presence. The objection was never raised so far as the President was concerned in earlier negotiations on the ground that the President was an outsider and not a member of the staff. So, the meeting could not be held. Then the Labour machinery of Delhi Administration again tried to have a sitting and that had also taken place on 23rd October. When the discussion was going on the 23rd, it remained inconclusive. Thereafter, when it remained inconclusive, another date was fixed on the 25th. In the meantime, again, a new situation came in on 28th October. The management gave a letter that they are declaring lack-out. So, the whole situation became changed. In the meantime, on 28th there was a confrontation -- as you know it was reported in the press also-- and, therefore, a stage has not been set to apply any of the Sections of the Industrial Dispute Act for the Labour Ministry to go in.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to run the Indian Express newspaper, the Delhi Administration lathi-charged the workers and pushed them inside the premises forcefully while the labour dispute was going on and their charter of demands was under consideration. Was it proper on the part of the Administration to interfere under such a situation and to adopt tactics to force the workers to enter the premises of the Press? Will the hon. Minister take steps to check

recurrence of such incidents, because the Management in collusion with the Administration has used coercive tactics to stall the long standing demands of the workers?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: So far as the Delhi Administration Labour machinery is concerned, I am supposed to answer that part. We have coordination with the Labour Machinery. So far as we are concerned, there is no such interference on our part of taking outsiders or interfere with the strike or to break the strike.

SHRI C. MADHAVA REDDI: Sir, there were reports that even after settlement of dispute, the workers had not been allowed to enter the premises of the Indian Express. May I know whether the hon. Minister knows about it and what is the reason for not allowing the workers to enter into the premises of Indian Express?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, so far as the settlement of dispute is concerned, there is a conflicting claim. The General Secretary who has been thrown out by the president, wrote only on the 18th of November that they are calling off the strike and they want to discuss with the management. So far as the president is concerned, he is saying that he is continuing and there has been no settlement. This is the position. As you know, under Section 12 or under Section 10 for Government to act *suo motu* and there has to be formation of opinion, issues are required. Now, if there is a conflict between the two, there is no crystallisation of the dispute concerned and therefore we cannot take any action.

Loaning out of turbo-prop planes by I.A. to Vayudoot

*236. SHRI MANIK REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to loan its turbo-prop planes to Vayudoot; and

(b) whether the Vayudoot's package