

Air India Engineers' Strike

72. **Shri Kajroikar:**

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Krishnapal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India cancelled all flights on the morning of 25th December, 1965 following a lightning strike by the Flight Engineers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such strikes in future?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The alleged reason for the illegal strike was the withdrawal of a Flight Engineer who was scheduled for duties on flight AI/109 on 24th December, 1965 since it appeared that he intentionally kept the entire flight waiting after the passengers had been boarded, by taking an inordinately long time to carry out his preflight duties. The Management has pointed out to the Flight Engineers Association the illegality of the strike. The strike was called off at 8 p.m. the same day after the Management had discussions with the President of the Association when he returned to Headquarters later in the day.

Import of Wheat from U.S.A.

73. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have forwarded any positive agricultural production programmes to U.S.A. in order to import wheat from that Country under a long-term arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to give practical shape to the production programme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) No Sir. But the Government of India have given the U.S. Government an estimate of the quantities and kinds of inputs that would be required for the programme of increasing agricultural production in the next five years, the object being to secure assistance for obtaining those inputs.

(b) the details are described in the paper entitled "Reorientation of Programmes of Agricultural Production", circulated to the Members of the Parliament in November, 1965.

(c) the programme for increased agricultural production will constitute the hard core of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Preliminary action for the first year's programme (1966-67) has been taken and the appropriate provisions have been made in consultation with States and Union Territories.

Thefts at sea Ports

74. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently complaints of thefts at sea ports have considerably increased and cases of thefts of Motor parts and valuable machine parts have been reported;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these thefts considerably delay installation of plants and machinery because such parts have to be ordered afresh and this takes considerable time in securing fresh licences to import; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to prevent this pilferage at ports?