

12.20 hrs.

RE: STRIKE BY AIR INDIA PILOTS

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Yesterday the Minister of Civil Aviation made a statement about the strike by the pilots of Air India. We want to know what has happened to that strike. Is the hon. Minister going to inform the House of the position? Yesterday we were precluded from asking questions.

Mr. Speaker: I assure this House that we shall have a discussion on this for an hour or so. I did not want the time of the House to be wasted, without proper use being made of it, by simply asking some questions. So far as statements by Ministers are concerned, the rules are very clear. The rule says that there shall be no question. Now, in the name of clarification, one or two questions are allowed. I wanted to have the discussion today itself, if possible. But today we have one half an hour discussion. So, tomorrow we will have this discussion on Air India strike for one hour.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, you have completely misunderstood me. I did not challenge your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: There is no ruling to challenge.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I accept your suggestion. But our difficulty is this. We read in the newspapers today that because of the strike by the pilots of Air India there is going to be lay off, which will mean many employees may even be retrenched. We are interested to know whether any attempt has been made by the Minister to settle the strike, not to harass the employees but to end the strike. We are prepared to help him in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: We will take up this tomorrow evening at 8 O'Clock for discussion for one hour.

12.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Defence. We have now only 2 hours left for the discussion of this Ministry. How long will the Minister take to reply?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): I will take about 45 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: So, 45 minutes out of the 2 hours will be taken by the Minister. Therefore, this discussion will go on till about 2.30 p.m. when the Minister will be called.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): 1 hour more should be given because one hour has been wasted by Shri Bhagat.

Mr. Speaker: If I extend the time for this Ministry, to that extent you will lose time on other Ministries. So at 2.30 the Minister will reply. Till then, two or three members can speak. Now, Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, may I point out that Shri Samar Guha has not yet been called?

Mr. Speaker: Has he not spoken? I thought he has already spoken. I will call him after Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I am pointing this out because this is not the first time that it has happened.

Mr. Speaker: I will call Shri Samar Guha next.

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी (होशंगाबाद):
प्रमुख महोदय, प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय के निर्य-
न्तरीन बजट अनुदानों की भांति पर दो दिन से
इस सदन में बहस हो रही है। बहस के दौरान

*Moved with the recommendation
of the President.