

Bill, 1962, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 18th April, 1962.

12.02½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: HOOGHLY
PILOTS

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A few days ago the representatives of the Hooghly Pilots asked for permission to see me in Delhi. They arrived in Delhi four days ago and have seen me more than once. The Minister of Transport & Communications also granted them an interview on 19-5-62.

As the House is aware, the two basic demands of the Hooghly Pilots have been:—

- (i) that an assurance stated to have been given by the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Commissioners in 1948 during the course of some informal discussions with their representatives regarding differentials in pay vis-a-vis the other services should be implemented forthwith; and/or
- (ii) that the service as a whole should be transferred to the direct control of the Central Government.

I made it clear to the representatives that, for a variety of reasons, neither of these was acceptable to the Calcutta Port Commissioners or Government.

After discussion, the representatives of the Pilots accepted the position that it was not feasible to implement either of the two demands. They also recognised the serious consequences to the port and the country arising from the stoppage of pilotage work by them. Accordingly, they have decided to return to their work forthwith. As the

Pilots have now realised that the extreme step they took was in nobody's interest, Government trust that the Calcutta Port Commissioners will take a considerate and lenient view in the departmental proceedings which they have initiated against the pilots.

In order to secure proper co-ordination and happier relations amongst the various marine services in the Port of Calcutta and to promote greater efficiency all round, Government propose, in consultation with the Calcutta Port Commissioners, to examine the question of re-organisation of the marine services in the Port. In the meanwhile, the Pilot service will be directly administered by the Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners, as a temporary measure. Before concluding my statement, I wish to express Government's appreciation of the valuable services of those officers of the Hooghly Pilot Service who carried out their duties with devotion under very difficult and trying conditions during the past twenty days. I would also like to express Government's appreciation of the contribution made during this period by each and every one of the other members of the ad hoc pilotage unit set up by the Port Commissioners, particularly the officers of the Indian Navy and the Dredger and Despatch Service of the Commissioners. We are also grateful to Shipping Companies for their cooperation and for offering the services of some of their Marine Officers to assist the Port Commissioners during the period of emergency.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COIR BOARD

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (1) (e) of Rule 4 of the Coir In-