

India, and are getting in touch with the new Romanian leadership. It is our hope that the National Salvation Front will be able to successfully guide the destinies of the Romanian people to a peaceful and democratic future.

The Government warmly welcomes the movement towards a more humane and liberal system in Romania. The Government and people of India wish the Romanian people success in the goals they have set before themselves, and greater progress and prosperity. We extend our support and cooperation to them in rebuilding their economy and joining the mainstream of the world economy. We have already offered to Romania urgently needed medical and humanitarian relief assistance. We are confident that the ties of friendship, cooperation and understanding between India and Romania will be strengthened and expanded in the future under an open system in Romania.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): I do not think there is any need for seeking clarifications on this statement. Of course, if any hon. Member insists...

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not provoke.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): We want a statement from the hon. Minister on Sri Lanka. He had agreed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: We will now take up the next item. Statement by the Minister of Surface Transport.

II. Re Reinstatement of Dismissed Employees of Delhi Transport Corporation

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): Sir, as this House is aware, consequent to the strike by the employees of the Delhi Transport Corporation in March, 1988, 3125 DTC

employees were dismissed by the Management. These dismissals were made after invoking the provisions of the Essential Services and Maintenance Act, 1981, and also the special provisions of the Delhi Transport Laws (Amendment) Act, 1971.

A number of representations were made by the dismissed employees for reinstatement throughout 1988 and also during the current year. After a long lapse of about 19 months, the previous Government decided in October, 1989, on the eve of the general elections, that the dismissed employees may be taken back on the condition that the employees wishing to rejoin the service ought to put in a mercy petition and accept other very stiff conditions which were also prescribed for their readmission to duty. In view of the extreme hardships they were put to and the distress which they had experienced; over 2600 dismissed workers submitted such mercy petition and about 2400 employees agreed to these conditions; and they were reappointed.

After the assumption of office by the Present Government, a number of representations were received from the affected employees, Trade Union Leaders and many Hon'ble Members of Parliament stating that some of the conditions prescribed for the reinstatement of the employees were 'unfair' and needless stiff and urging the Government to reinstate all the dismissed employees.

The Government have carefully considered the matter and have decided that the dismissed employees should be reinstated without insisting upon a mercy petition but on a simple representation, and without prescribing any other inequitable or humiliating conditions. The D.T.C. Management has been instructed by the Government not to insist upon a mercy petition and also to delete some of the conditions for reinstatement to duty, which they had earlier prescribed.

Many Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Trade Union Leaders also

represented that the condition that the period of absence of duty on account of dismissal be treated as 'dies non' for all purposes; should be reviewed. The Government have decided that the claims of the dismissed employees for pay and other benefits during the period of their dismissal will be considered by the Government and a decision taken thereon expeditiously.

The strike in March, 1988 and its aftermath had created a feeling of confrontation between the DTC and its workers. The Delhi Transport Corporation plays a very significant role in the transportation of commuters in Delhi. It is this Government's hope

and endeavour that the workers and the staff and Management in DTC will function in a harmonious manner to achieve the common objective of providing the services rendered by the Corporation to the public of Delhi. We hope that the gesture shown by Government would help commence a new era of management-labour cooperation in the Corporation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

The House then adjourned at thirty-four minutes past nine of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 29th December, 1989.