

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI V. N. MAHIDA (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings (1973-74):—

1. Forty-fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (5th Lok Sabha) on Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

2. Forty-fifth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (5th Lok Sabha) on National Newsprint and Paper Mills Limited.

3. Forty-sixth Report regarding action taken by Government on paragraph 3.58 of the Fortieth Report on the Committee on Role and Achievements of Public Undertakings—Form and Contents of the Annual Reports of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, on the working of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government.

PRESENTATION OF THIRTY-NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

श्री गुणा नन्द ठाकुर (बिहार) : मैं ग्रन्थिल भारतीय रेल कर्मचारियों संघ, नई दिल्ली के जनरल सेक्रेटरी श्री प्रिय गुप्त तथा 99 अन्य व्यक्तियों द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक याचिका प्रस्तुत करता हूँ जिसमें यह प्रार्थना की गई है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों को भी वही राजनैतिक अधिकार दिए जाने चाहिए जो अन्य नागरिकों को दिए गए हैं।

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Crash of a Lufthansa aircraft at Palam Airport

श्री जगज्योती प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : मैं 20 दिसम्बर 1973 के प्रारम्भिक घण्टों में लुफ्तहान्सा जम्बो जेट के पालम हवाई अड्डे पर उतरते समय दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होकर नष्ट होने के समाचार की शीघ्र संचार तथा पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Sir, I regret to inform the House that a Lufthansa Boeing 707 aircraft crashed while landing at Palam airport at 0101 hours IST yesterday morning. The aircraft was on a scheduled flight and was coming from Bangkok. Before giving any further details, I would like to inform the House straightaway that fortunately there was no loss of life and that all the 98 passengers and 11 crew members on board are safe 6 passengers and the Captain of the aircraft received some injuries. 4 passengers and the Captain were taken to the hospital and all but the Captain have been discharged.

2. The aircraft in its approach phase duly crossed the reporting point over Secunderabad, approximately 26 miles from Palam. It was cleared by air traffic control for a straight in landing. The aircraft reported crossing the outer marker at 0059 hrs. IST, and landing clearance was given. About two minutes later the air traffic control officer saw some flames near the beginning of runway 28 and immediately alerted the safety services who rushed to the site. The Duty Officer simultaneously alerted the city fire services and hospitals.

3. Immediately on receiving information of the accident I rushed to the site accompanied by the Secretary in my Ministry. The Director General of Civil Aviation along with his officers, and the officers of the International Airport Authority also arrived at the scene. I was informed that the aircraft had struck the Middle Marker hut and that the chowkidar on duty there had also been injured and is in hospital. I was also informed that all the Landing Aids were in operation at the time of the accident.

4. Almost all the passengers had been taken to the airport restaurant where I spoke to a number of them. I also visited the Willingdon Hospital to see the injured persons including the Captain of the aircraft.

5. I am sure, the House will join me in expressing its deep regret over the accident and wishing the injured persons a very-speedy recovery. It is indeed fortunate that there was no loss of life.

6. A Court of Inquiry is being appointed to investigate the circumstances and causes of the accident.