

in general agreement with the suggestion made. That is all that I can say for the time being.

Shri Thimmiah: May I know whether all the States have made use of the matching grants given to the States for enhancing the salaries of teachers?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: That question does not arise out of this. The hon. Member will have to give me separate notice for that.

Port and Dock Workers' Strike

- *713. { **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:**
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Damani:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Anthony Pillai:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) in how many ports were Army and Navy personnel asked to stand-by for helping the civil port authorities during the port and dock workers' strike in June, 1958;

(b) in how many ports did the port authorities actually request the Army and Navy personnel to take over port and dock works; and

(c) the type of work which they were required to do in this connection and the duties for which they were detailed in these ports?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) At the ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Visakhapatnam, the Army and the Navy were instructed to extend assistance in the maintenance of essential services.

(b) When the strike actually materialised, the assistance of the Armed Forces was requested and provided at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Visakhapatnam. The Army and Naval personnel assisted only in main-

taining the essential services. They did not take over these ports.

(c) The Army and Naval personnel assisted in maintaining the following essential services:—

- (i) unloading of such essential cargoes as foodgrains and salt, coal for use by Railways and oil for the Refineries;
- (ii) safety of ships and harbour installations;
- (iii) running of power houses; and
- (iv) maintenance of Navigational aids.

Shri Tangamani: The Deputy Minister has stated that the Army and Naval personnel were only recruited to these major ports for maintaining essential services. May I know from the hon. Minister whether after these Army and Naval personnel were withdrawn from the Madras harbour, the workers who had to take over had to wait for two days because of the repairs that they had to do to the cranes and other things?

Sardar Majithia: I could not follow. Would the hon. Member repeat his question?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion that the Army personnel destroyed or brought about damage to these cranes and other things.

Shri Tangamani: Two cranes could not work for three days. I know it myself.

Mr. Speaker: The best has been made out of a bad bargain.

Consolidation of Loans to States

*714. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Union Government have further considered any suitable measures for consolidating Central loans to the States and their terms of repayment?