

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think it will be too wide and general a statement to make that they have never been paid in time. There have been difficulties, and on account of those difficulties, there have been labour troubles also.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether there was an agreement as to the target for finishing the project?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think it was April, 1958.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether Government still feel that the work will be finished by that time or whether time will have to be extended?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is lagging behind in time, by about a year.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether Government have enquired into the financial capacity of the company to execute the contract, before the contract was given?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The name of the company is Messrs. Stress Concrete Construction Ltd., Madras. They have got their own reputation as a firm of contractors. Government should have satisfied themselves to the best of their ability but then there have been some financial difficulties.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is it not a fact that this particular company which is executing the contract has not even got a bank balance of Rs. 5,000?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got no association with them, and so I have got no intimate knowledge about their bank balances.

Shri Ranga: In view of the urgency of this present construction work, if Government are satisfied with the *bona fides* of this company, is it not possible for Government to give them some financial assistance in order to enable them to carry out this work?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The company has already executed as much as 67 per cent. of the work. We had also under our consideration a proposal to give them some advance. The proposals have been there, and they will be taken into consideration if needed. But, meanwhile, the company seems to have tided over its financial difficulties.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wood for Construction of Gliders

*724. **Shri A. M. Tariq:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special type of wood used in construction of gliders is available in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wood available in Jammu and Kashmir State is superior to the wood imported from foreign countries for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the action taken to exploit the local supplies?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strength properties of the spruce wood available in the Jammu and Kashmir State compare favourably with those of Sitka Spruce imported from abroad. It is not possible to say that it is superior to the imported timber.

(c) The firms engaged in the manufacture of Gliders are aware of the suitability of Indian spruce for the manufacture of gliders and are investigating the question of substituting imported wood by indigenous wood.