

(c) The Government of India have agreed to supply this quantity.

EXPORT OF ORE FROM CALCUTTA

*1297. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of Calcutta Port can be increased so that it might handle larger quantities of mineral ore from Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open a port somewhere on the Orissa Coast?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

STRIKE NOTICE BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1298. **Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad has not started conciliation proceeding under clause 22(a) of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, even after receiving a strike notice as per rules from "All India Railway Ministerial Staff's Federation" under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad to start formal conciliation proceedings; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giridharan): (a) and (b). The All India Railway Ministerial Staff Federation, Jamalpur, served a notice of strike on the Minister for Railways on the 24th July 1953 and sent a copy thereof to the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Dhanbad. On receipt of the notice, the Regional Labour Commissioner visited the Jamalpur Workshops and discussed the demands of the Federation with the local Railway Authorities. He also met the Secre-

tary of the Federation and explained to him that the Federation's demands could be placed before the Tribunal appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of Railways to go into the grievances of the Railway Workers and that the Federation should first exhaust the remedies available for settling disputes through the departmental machinery.

(c) Does not arise.

SLOW DOWN STRIKE BY RAILWAY STAFF

*1299. **Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministerial Staff of Indian Railways are continuing a "slow down" strike under the directions of All India Railway Ministerial Staff's Federation, Jamalpur, for the revision of pay scales and other demands; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to settle the dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have not noticed any such situation.

(b) Does not arise.

PASSENGERS BOUND FOR INDIA IN SINGAPORE

*1300. **Prof. Mathew:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a P.T.I report in the newspapers that hundreds of passengers bound for India especially for Madras are stranded in Singapore with no hopes of obtaining a passage for at least six weeks, mainly due to the commissioning of two vessels to transport the Indian custodian forces to Korea; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are contemplated to shorten the period for which the passengers will have to wait before they can get a passage?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. The Government have seen the report in the press.