

(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. Giri):** (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.J 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.

(b) Necessary steps have been taken and it is hoped that regular services will be resumed from Singapore to Madras about the 1st of October.

#### POST OFFICE AT PASUMALAI

**\*1301. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the night of 30th August, 1953, some unknown persons attacked the Post Office at Pasumalai, Madura District, in Madras State and took away cash and postal stamps from the office?

(b) If so, what is the amount of estimated loss to Government?

(c) What were the causes of the theft?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) There was no attack on the post office. A burglary occurred on the 30th August, 1953.

(b) A sum of Rs. 411/6/9 is reported to have been lost.

(c) Burglary, which is being investigated.

#### WORLD CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

**\*1302. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how many representatives were sent by the Government of India to the 'World Conference on Medical Education' that was held recently in London?

(b) Was there any report submitted to Government by the representatives who attended this conference?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) None

(b) Does not arise.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE TRIBUNALS

**\*1303. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Dispute Tribunals that have been formed in different regions of India and the places where they sit;

(b) whether the Tribunal functioning for the State of Assam sit in Calcutta;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are comparatively large number of cases coming from the State of Assam; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to hold sittings of the Tribunal in Gauhati or any other town in Assam?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) and (b). In so far as the Central Government are concerned, two standing Tribunals, one at Dhanbad and the other at Calcutta, have been set up under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to which disputes in central sphere undertakings are referred for adjudication. Under the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, a Labour Appellate Tribunal has been set up with its headquarters at Calcutta and two outlying benches, one at Lucknow and the other at Bombay for hearing appeals from the awards of all Tribunals in the country.

(c) No. Upto the 31st August 1953, only twenty-two appeals from Assam have been filed this year before the Appellate Tribunal against a total of 493 appeals.

(d) It is understood that the headquarters Bench of the Appellate Tribunal proposes to hold sittings at a suitable place in Assam as soon as it finds it possible to do so.

#### FOOD SUBSIDY

**\*1304. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have made some demand for subsidy for the sale of foodgrains in the flood-affected areas of North Bihar;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government of India on this matter;

(c) whether any demand for food subsidy was made by any other State Governments in current year 1953; and