

AIR ROUTE TO KABUL

*419. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any team of officers was sent to Kabul recently to investigate the latest position regarding a direct flight to Kabul?

(b) Who were the officers sent for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 65.]

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know, Sir, if the efforts of officers in finding out a shorter route to Kabul have been successful? If so, what would be the distance between India and Kabul?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They were successful long before and the air service is already in operation.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: What is the air distance at present?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It has been reduced considerably, but I cannot give the exact distance now.

GOLD MINE WORKERS

*420. **Shri Thimmaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Minimum Wages Act has not been made applicable to the Gold Mines?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of applying welfare measures, as have been done in the Coal Mines?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The Minimum Wages Act is primarily intended to afford relief to sweated and unorganised labour. As labour in gold mines does not suffer from this handicap, it was considered unnecessary to bring it within the scope of the Act.

(b) This question was recently considered. In view of the welfare measures voluntarily undertaken by the owners of Gold mines, it was considered unnecessary to start a statutory scheme of welfare financed through a cess, especially as the strength of labour was only 24,000.

Shri Thimmaiah: In view of the assurance given during the budget session in answer to a starred question of mine that the Minister would examine the question of enforcing the Minimum Wages Act in the K.G.F. area, I would like to know whether he has examined the question, and, if so, with what result?

Shri V. V. Giri: We found that it is not necessary to put it into effect.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is the Government aware of the fact that clerks working in the K.G.F. are getting salaries equivalent to that of the Class IV employees of the Central Government?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take the information.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, what are the welfare measures undertaken by the K.G.F. management?

Shri V. V. Giri: The Labour Investigation Committee found that labour welfare measures such as medical, educational and recreational facilities were provided by the employers.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the reasons for not extending the Minimum Wages Act to the Kolar Gold Mines?

Shri V. V. Giri: There are trade unions of a powerful kind which will be able to negotiate with the employers and the workers and the workers will be in a better position to get better wages under those circumstances.

NATIONALISATION OF AIR SERVICES

*422. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the effect of nationalisation of air services on the traffic in

passengers and goods carried by the different lines?

(b) How do the figures in the month of August compare with that immediately after nationalisation in July 1953?

(c) Is there any line on which traffic either in passengers or in goods has decreased?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There has been no appreciable effect on air traffic.

(b) There were no significant variations apart from the normal seasonal variations.

(c) In Line 4 (formerly M/S. Indian National Airways Ltd.) there was some fall in passenger traffic during August compared to the figures for July.

श्री भगवत झा : एयर सर्विसेज के राष्ट्रीयकरण के फलस्वरूप पिछले तीन महीनों में माल तथा यात्रियों की ट्रेफिक पर क्या असर पड़ा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अभी जवाब दिया है कि इतने थोड़े असें में इस बारे में कोई खास फिगरस बर्क आउट करना या आंकड़े बताना सम्भव नहीं है ।

श्री भगवत झा : मंत्री महोदय ने पार्ट सी० के जवाब में कहा कि पैसेंजर ट्रेफिक में पिछले तीन महीनों में अबनलि हुई है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस डिक्लाइन का कारण क्या है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : पैसेंजर ट्रेफिक में गिराव आने के कारण सीजनल बैरिएण्ड्स है यानी मौसम के मुताबिक पैसेंजर ट्रेफिक के चलने में परिवर्तन हो जाता है ।

सेठ गोबिन्द दास : राष्ट्रीयकरण से पहले जो इन मित्र मित्र कम्पनियों में बाह्यारी

खर्च था, उस में अब कमी हो गई है या और ज्यादा हो गई है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह अभी नहीं बताया जा सकता ।

"NEVER HUNGRY" GIRL

*423. Shri Bhagwat Jha: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have undertaken to get Coorg's 'never hungry' wonder girl examined?

(b) What is the amount sanctioned for this examination?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Srimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes

(b) Rs. 1,200.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: May I know, Sir, what is the result of the examination?

Srimati Chandrasekhar: We have just recently received a report from the Director of Medical Services, Mysore, wherein he concludes that she is a normal person and there is no need for undertaking any other examination.

Shri Bhagwat Jha rose—

Mr. Speaker: This question need not be discussed on the floor of this House. Next question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: What the Minister said was wrong. I wanted to verify....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

ज्वार

*४२५. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : (क) खास तथा ऊँचि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या मद्रास सरकार के ऊँचि विभाग ने एक ऐसी फिल्म के ज्वार का पता लगाया है जो सूखे में भी उगा सकती है और जिसकी