

**Strike Notice by All India Newspapers Employees Federation**

773. SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:  
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:  
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:  
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the decision of the All India Newspapers Employees' Federation to go on an indefinite strike from the 23rd July, 1968;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand relates to implementation of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Non-journalists.

(c) The parties were brought together so that the matter could be resolved amicably through bipartite discussions. The discussions have, however, not produced any agreement so far. The newspapers employees have gone on strike which will be restricted to newspapers falling in classes I, II and III.

**Purchase of Rice From Burma and Thailand**

774. SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:  
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:  
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE:  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently sent a delegation to Burma and Thailand to explore the purchase of rice from those countries; and

(b) if so, whether any deal has been concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Food Secretary went to Thailand in the second week of June, 1968 to explore the possibility of purchasing rice from that country. Following this visit, a contract for the purchase of 80,000 metric tons of rice was entered into with the Government of Thailand on the 18th June, 1968.

**Detention of Wagons Loaded with Foodgrains**

775. SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:  
SHRI UMANATH:  
SHRI V. VISWANATHA  
MENON:  
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:  
SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether abnormal detention of wagons loaded with foodgrains at unloading points had led to congestion and slow movement of grains internally procured; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to speed up unloading and to release the wagons quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) At certain destinations some wagons loaded with foodgrains suffered detention because of bunched arrivals, shortage of labour, intermittent rains, affecting unloading particularly from open wagons, dislocation at certain points in the Railway lines etc. However, this was not allowed to slow down the movement of foodgrains from the procurement areas. While the booking was restricted or regulated to those destinations where congestion had developed, internally procured grain continued to be des-