

culties in getting their claims settled through the present cumbersome procedure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these delays sometime in many cases are spread over a period of more than a year; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure speedy disposal of the claims of the policy holders?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some delays, however, may occur in the matter of settlement of policies becoming claims:

(i) by maturity due to the failure of the claimant in not furnishing expeditiously the documents/information required by the Corporation;

(ii) by death within a very short period of the commencement of the policy due to the investigations which of necessity have to be undertaken by the Corporation in order to find out whether there had been any suppression of material information by the life assured at the time of taking out the policy.

(c) The Corporation is very anxious to settle all claims as quickly as possible and where any delay is due to any procedure or practice, suitable modifications to these are carried out at the earliest opportunity.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STRIKE BY 3500 WORKERS IN THE HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LTD., VIZAGAPATAM

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Transport

and Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

Strike by 3500 workers in the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Vizagapatam.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to make the following statement. The workers of the Hindustan Shipyard, numbering about 3500, have gone on strike with effect from August 12, 1961 (Forenoon). The circumstances leading to the strike are as follows:

On July 26, 1961, two workers of the Shipwright (Berth) Department refused to do their normal work, which they have been doing for long, on the plea that this involves slinging which was not a part of their duty according to their designation. The management of the Shipyard explained that the nature of their duties did not involve slinging as such but since they persisted in their refusal to do the work, they had to be placed under suspension. This led to a stay-in strike in the Shipwright (Berth) Department of the Shipyard involving 106 out of the 115 workers in that Department with effect from July 28, 1961. It may be stated here that conciliation proceeding were pending at that time before the State Government Labour Officer when the stay-in strike commenced.

Simultaneously, the Secretary of the Labour Union of the Shipyard served a notice on the Managing director of the Hindustan Shipyard on the 28th July, 1961 stating that the twenty four demands put forth by them may either be conceded or referred to arbitration failing which they will go on strike after the expiry of 14 days' notice. These demands were duly considered by the Shipyard Management and it became clear that some of them, such as

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

blanket increase of wages of every worker by 30 per cent and that "the Board of Directors should have those nominated by workers," were such as could not be conceded. The Management have, after a careful consideration, taken the view that some of these demands may be referred to adjudication, others to arbitration and of the remaining, some may be conceded, whereas others may be rejected. It is on this basis that negotiations for a conciliation were commended and the Management has been further prepared to refer to adjudication all demands of the workers excepting those which are to be conceded or rejected. The negotiations with the Union are now proceeding on the above basis. The State Government have been kept throughout in the picture and the Assistant Labour Commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh Government has been assisting the negotiations.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the representatives of the labour union are here and they are negotiating with the Minister concerned, and if so, whether they have stated that if some of the demands are referred to arbitration, the strike will be called off? May I know what the truth in this statement is?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not know whether the representatives of the union as such are here, but, of course, a friend saw me and the Minister of Transport and Communications. We discussed and made the position clear. We said that certain demands were such as involved certain fundamental questions of policy, not only affecting the shipyard but also all other industries in the public sector, and it might not be possible for us to take them up, but other demands can be considered. Some of them may even be conceded, and about others, agreement may be arrived at either to refer them to adjudication or to arbitration, depending upon the nature and scope of the demands.

Mr. Speaker: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): If it is a question of arbitration, may I know whether Government will...

Mr. Speaker: I have called the next item. If the hon. Member wants to know anything, he may ask the hon. Minister privately.

12:11 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT CONTAINING PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE OF CHIEF MINISTERS AND CENTRAL MINISTRIES ON NATIONAL INTEGRATION

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of a statement containing the proceedings of a Conference of Chief Ministers and Central Ministers on the question of national integration. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3087/61].

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Thiruvella): Shall we get copies of this statement?

Mr. Speaker: All right, those hon. Members who want copies will be supplied with them. Any hon. Member who wants it may take it from the Notice Office.

Hon. Members: All of us want copies.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has appeared completely in the newspapers, word for word.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that word for word, it has been copied in the newspapers, and hon. Members have copies of newspapers with them already.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Which newspaper has the full text? If the hon. Minister wants, we may buy that newspaper. All newspapers do not have the full text.

Mr. Speaker: All right. All hon. Members will have copies of this.