

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Award carries an amount of Rs. 1 lakh in cash, convertible into foreign currency.

(a) and (d). A formal invitation has been extended to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, and a reply from him is awaited. The programme of his visit will be prepared in the light of his reply.

**Suspension of Road Communications in Nefa Due to Heavy Rains**

\*426. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether road communications in several places in North-East Frontier Agency were completely suspended and many areas were flooded following heavy rains in the month of May, 1969 ;

(b) the steps taken by Government to get the communications in the areas in tact ; and

(c) the loss suffered by Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Report from the Border Roads Development Board and NEFA Administration indicate that except on one road, no other major dislocations to road communication occurred in the NEEA area which could be attributed to rains in May 1969. The road blockage due to landslide even on that particular road, is reported to have been cleared the same afternoon. Besides, the Lekong area near Namsai in Lohit District was affected by the flood of May 1969. Incidence of landslides due to heavy rains resulting sometimes in blockage to traffic is inherent in hill roads in such climatic regions, specially those traversing through the Himalayan ranges and foothills, which are geologically very young. Clearance of landslides with the help of men and machinery, construction of diversion, and where necessary, temporary bridges, are therefore, the normal measures taken to

maintain communication in such area. There has been no special loss to Government as a results of the rains in the month of May, 1969.

**Strike by Workers of Hindustan Shipyards Ltd., at Visakhapatnam**

\*428 SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :  
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Hindustan Shipyards at Visakhapatnam went on a long strike in may this year ; and

(b) if so, their demands and assurances given to them before they called off the strike and the steps being taken to carry out these assurances ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. About 3,800 workers and 970 staff (out of 3,900 workers and 1,220 staff) of the Hindustan Shipyards Ltd., Visakhapatnam, were on strike from the 1st May, 1969 to 27th May, 1969.

The strike Notice, served by the Hindustan Shipyards Labour Union and the Staff Association on the Management of the Shipyards on the 17th April, 1969, related to the following issues :

1. Yard allowance.
2. Cash handling allowance.
3. Payment of wages for the four days of Steel Plant agitation.
4. The dismissal of 79 workmen designated as Apprentices/Journeymen.
5. The dismissal of 3 painters and suspension of 2 painters.
6. The dismissal of 14 casual painters.
7. Dismissal of 2 painters.
8. Anomalous Promotions of staff.
9. The injustice caused to workers in respect of promotion due to warnings.