

(c) whether these completed flats have been allotted out of turn to various V.I.P.s. including the sister of a DDA official; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not allotting these flats to applicants who have paid all the instalments as far back as one and half year ago?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) DDA has reported that flats have been allotted in accordance with the normal procedure relating to change of locality and out of turn allotments.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Sethusamudram Canal Project**

345. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2674 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1984 and state:

(a) whether his ministry have examined the report of the Expert Committee set up for construction of the Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project and have taken a decision in the matter;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the present stage of the proposal for construction of the project; and

(d) what are the anticipated advantages of this project for shipping movement and for defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (d) The Report of the Expert Committee is under the consideration of Government and all aspects of the project

including the anticipated advantages etc. are under examination.

#### **Strike by port and dock workers**

346. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI: SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

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

(a) whether the port and dock workers' strike in the country has been called off;

(b) if so on what terms; and

(c) what is the extent of loss suffered by Government as a result of this strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) Yes. The strike by the Port and Dock workers was called off from the midnight of 10/11-4-1984.

(b) The main benefits, which are envisaged in the wage settlement signed on 11-4-1984 are uniform increase of Rs. 91 in pay to all employees on rolls as on 31-12-1983 and 1-1-1984, revision of pay scales by merger of Dearness Allowance of Rs. 59 in pay, fitment at next higher stage, in revised pay scale if there is no corresponding stage, grant of two additional increments in the revised scale, grant of House Rent Allowance in a phased manner during the period of four years of settlement at rates ranging from 10 per cent to 30 per cent depending on the classification of the cities, 50 per cent increase in washing allowance and revision of existing piece-rates/incentive rates and special pays and special allowances by 14 per cent.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the loss to the Government and the country's economy as a result of the strike.

#### **Exodus of Tamils from Sri Lanka**

347. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: