

have not yet come to us. The matter is still under examination and as and when we get all these claims, Air India will make the necessary arrangements for paying suitable compensation as under the Warsaw Convention.

SHRI BIREN ROY : One question more, Sir. The Minister has told us about the Warsaw Convention Treaty. Is it not a fact that in this Warsaw Convention Treaty the amount of limit is based on only 8,000 dollars ? Now, the American Government has also denounced it in November, 1965 giving six months' time. They are not going to abide by this kind of arbitrary thing which was determined 20 years before. May I know whether the Government of India has come to any decision on this point where the American Government wants it to be raised to 75,000 dollars per passenger ? What is the Government's view on this ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : We have not yet changed our decision with regard to adherence to the Warsaw Convention. We still follow the Warsaw Convention, as far as the payment of compensation to aircrash victims is concerned.

SHRI ABID ALI : What is the latest position in regard to the investigation that this accident took place because of the mistake of an Italian aeroplane ?

AN HON. MEMBER : That was answered.

SHRI ABID ALI : I am sorry, I was absent then.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA : I would like to know what is the procedure with regard to the payment of compensation to the unfortunate passengers who travelled. The Minister just stated that he has not received all the claims. I would like to understand—is it not that the relatives of the passengers that were travelling will get automatically paid or will they wait for the claims to be lodged by the relatives of the deceased passengers ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It is obvious because we have got to establish the entitlements of those persons who could receive the compensation. We should definitely know to whom this payment should be made. Therefore, we have to wait for

the claims to be made and pay the compensation to the people to whom compensation has to be paid. That procedure could not be avoided.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : In the enquiry that is going on in France, is there any representative of the Government of India also ? And at what stage are those proceedings ? Is there any time-limit to the submitting of claims in this matter ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The Director of Air Safety of our Civil Aviation Department is a member of the Court of Inquiry. And as for the enquiry, the court of Enquiry have drawn up a sort of schedule for the various stages. In four stages they are going to complete the enquiry which is likely to take the whole of this year and early in 1967 we should hope to receive their final report.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Time-limit for submitting claims ?

(No reply)

MR CHAIRMAN : Next question

INCENTIVE TO SUGARCANE CULTIVATORS

*102. **SHRI N. PATRA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the Sugarcane Development Council held at Coimbatore recently recommended that as an incentive to sugarcane cultivators to raise early and mid-term varieties, price linking level should be brought down to 9 per cent recovery, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the said proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir, but only in respect of the 'early' varieties of Sugarcane.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

SHRI N. PATRA : Is there any proposal under the Government's considera-

tion about allotment of special quotas of nitrogenous fertilisers available from the Central Pool for sugar-cane cultivation ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE Yes, Sir.

SHRI N. PATRA : May I know whether there is any proposal to constitute factory-wise Consultative Committees in respect of furthering of sugar-cane cultivation ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : At present there is no such proposal. But we realise the importance of sugar factories taking to extension activities in order to develop sugar-cane and, from that point of view, we are trying to advise the sugar factories that this be organised so that it would include extension services and organisation attached to the factory

SHRI N. SHRI RAMA REDDY : I would like to know the reason for bringing up sugar-cane of the 'early' variety. I would like to know what are its advantages.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The main advantage is, for instance, as is well known, sugar industry is a seasonal industry. If the recovery is adequate and the season is prolonged, the cost of production comes down. And in the interests of the sugar industry as a whole and in the interests of the consumers and the cane-growers, it is necessary that we should encourage the 'early' varieties so that the factories are in a position to go into production in September, October, and November. I know from my own experience that some of the factories which had tried this early plantation varieties could successfully go into production in the month of September, October, etc.

SHRI D. THENGARI : May I know, Sir, if the Council made any recommendation about the running of the factories throughout the year intermittently ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I do not think that would be a very practical thing in the present context of our country.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Apart from these incentives, may I know, Sir, what steps Government are taking to divert or utilise the cane cess of three annas a rupee which has been going on for the last 25 to 30 years because it has never

been utilised for the improvement of cane ? Will the Government take drastic and serious steps to see that this amount which was earmarked for development is earmarked for that purpose ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : What the hon'ble Member is suggesting, namely, the original cane cess which is now known as the purchase cess should be utilised for development of cane in the factory area. The views of the Centre have been made publicly known and stated from time to time. We have communicated with the State Governments. But the State Governments have their own difficulties about financial resources. Some of the States are trying to utilise the purchase tax for cane cess. I would agree with the hon'ble Member that if States desired to use the purchase tax for development of cane, we should welcome it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know, Sir, if the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the price of the cane delivered by cultivators to the mills is promptly paid to them ? If that is so, that will be a big incentive to the cultivator.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : There is a law which enjoins upon a factory to make payment within a stipulated period. Unfortunately, in India the defaulting factories are always there and of course, the current year's problems are many.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Did we advise the State Governments to take the necessary steps because under the law the arrears can be recovered as arrears of land revenue ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Yes, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Your advice is being ignored.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : After all, we have to function through the State Governments and we cannot work over their heads.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that Mr. C. T. Sanghvi, President of the Bombay Sugar Merchant's Association, has stated that in view of large stocks of sugar in hand, because a record of 3.4

million of sugar is expected during the current year, decontrol of sugar is absolutely necessary not only to bring down prices but also to eliminate black market ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : This does not arise out of this question.

LOSS DUE TO RECENT AIR INDIA STRIKE

*103. { **SHRI A. D. MANI :**
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:†

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

(a) the total loss incurred by the Air India with special reference to the loss incurred on account of the cancellation of bookings effected from abroad involving the earning of foreign exchange as a result of the recent Air India strike, and

(b) the number of persons who were laid-off on account of the strike and what was the total amount of the wage bill which was lost to them as a result of the lay-off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) The total loss suffered by Air-India as a result of strike by the Flight Navigators, is estimated at Rs. 105 lakhs. The amount of foreign exchange involved is estimated at Rs. 76.65 lakhs. Separate figures of loss incurred on account of cancellation of bookings are not available.

(b) The number of persons laid off on account of the strike was 1520. This figure does not include Flight Navigators who went on strike. The Corporation have decided that except for Flight Navigators, the period of absence due to the lay off should be adjusted against leave of all kinds. There has therefore been no loss of emoluments to the employees who were laid off.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, what were the reasons for the strike and what were their demands, and whether in the strike were involved all the employees or a particular section of the employees ?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : A detailed statement was made on the floor of this House the other day with reference to the Navigators' strike and the reasons which prompted the Navigators to resort to the illegal action and the attitude of the Government and the action taken by the Government to see to the early termination of the strike etc.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, whether it is true that the dispute with the Navigators has been referred to arbitration or has it been settled amicably ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : The question of arbitration does not arise. It was in protest against the award given by Justice Khosla that they went on strike. It was illegal. The whole thing was placed before this House. Because of 41 Navigators going on a strike, unfortunately the flights could not take place and we had a lay-off. We thought that those who were not responsible for the strike should not suffer. The Navigators who were responsible for the strike are now talking with the management unconditionally.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : Keeping in view the huge loss of Rs. 105 lakhs, especially foreign exchange of Rs. 75 lakhs, may I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by the Government to see that these strikes do not recur ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : It is true, Sir, that periodical strikes like this are a great loss to the nation. But we are thinking of how best we can meet these things in future. We have not taken any final decision.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Sir, in order to avoid the strikes, may I know if the Government is considering to have a permanent machinery in case there is a dispute between the employer and the employee before that matter is referred to arbitration, arbitration of a compulsory nature, to avoid either strikes or lock-outs ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Here, the situation is little peculiar. These are senior officers drawing thousands of rupees as salaries. The Government has to examine all aspects whether the people drawing thousands of rupees could also be called workers and they could creat