

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I have just now answered that. As the hon. Member is aware there is less shaking in air-conditioned coaches and this medical van will be air-conditioned; so there will be less of shaking and vibration.

*344. [Postponed to 31st May 1956]

COCHIN PORT EMPLOYEES' UNION

*345. SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state the reasons for which the Cochin Port Employees' Union has not been granted recognition by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The office-bearers of this Union also claim to have been elected as the office-bearers of another existing recognised Union, viz., the Cochin Port Workers Union. The validity of their election as office-bearers of the latter Union is at present *sub judice* and the question of recognition of the Cochin Port Employees Union cannot properly be considered until after the issue has been decided by the Court.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Is the Government aware that this Cochin Port Employees' Union has the support of seventy-five per cent. of the workers there?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, Sir, it is difficult for me to express any opinion on that. But anyhow if they have got a majority, that matter will be taken into consideration when recognition will have to be given to this Union.

CONSTITUTION OF WORKS COMMITTEE AT COCHIN PORT

*346. SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Works Committee has been constituted and is functioning at present in Cochin Port, as pro-

vided for under Section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A Works Committee was constituted in March 1953 and functioned satisfactorily till December, 1953. It ceased to function thereafter due to the resignation of the labour representatives from the Committee.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Now, I would like to know whether the workers themselves have made a demand to organise Works Committees there?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They have made a demand, but the matter, as I said in answer to the previous question, being *sub judice* it is not possible to negotiate with either party to select the labour representatives for the Works Committee.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: The Works Committees are elected not on the basis of Unions, but on the basis of the representation of the workers employed there. So, I do not understand the difficulty in organising the Works Committee there.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The representatives of the Works Committee are selected from amongst the members of the Unions. The Unions are informally consulted by the Administrator. Because there is a dispute between the two Unions, both of them claim that they are the legal Union. So, we have to wait till the matter has been decided by the court.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Since when this dispute has arisen?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I think since March 1955.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I ask whether the Minister is aware that Works Committees are elected not on

the basis of Union membership but on the basis of the workers being employed in the particular factory or workshop.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I answered that query. Legally they are not selected by the Unions, but informally the Unions are consulted.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I ask whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the Port Officer is playing one Union against the other to avoid election of the Works Committee there?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is not correct. I do not think we should level that kind of charge against the Administrator of the port.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: I am prepared to give evidence to the Minister that the Port Officer is playing one Union against the other. Is he in a position to accept that?

(No reply)

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it a fact that Cochin is the port, of all ports, where there is less labour trouble?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is so. In fact, it has been a very peaceful port so far.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Is there any machinery by which trade disputes can be negotiated and settled there now? There is no trade union, no works committee. My point is this. Now, is there any machinery by which trade disputes can be settled by negotiation?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The fault is not ours. The fault is that of the workers. With whom are we going to negotiate or talk to, because the dispute is between two Unions and they have gone to court. It is not the Cochin Port Administrator who has gone to the court. One of the Unions has gone to the court and

unless that matter is disposed of by the court, it is difficult for us to go ahead, even to talk to or negotiate with any Union.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Is there a Port Trust in Cochin? In every other port, there is a Port Trust.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There is no Port Trust.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Why is that exemption given to that Port?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is a different question altogether. I can answer that, but it will take some time.

काठमंडू हवाई अड्डे पर रोके गये वायुयान

*३२८. डा० रघुवीर सिंह (श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान की ओर से) : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) २२, २५ व २६ मार्च १९५६ को काठमंडू हवाई अड्डे से किन किन हवाई अड्डों को वायुयान नहीं जा सके और उसके क्या कारण थे ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त तिथियों को यात्रियों को सुबह से लेकर शाम तक काठमंडू हवाई अड्डे पर पड़ा रहना पड़ा; और

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में नेपाल के नागरिकों की कोई शिकायत मिली है ?

†AEROPLANES HELD UP AT KATHMANDU AIR PORT

*328. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN): Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the air ports to which aeroplanes could not proceed from the Kathmandu air port on the 22nd, 25th and 26th of March, 1956, and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that passengers were held up at the Kath-

†English translation.