

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They have recommended a number of lines, but we can take up only a few out of them.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, the reasons for which no lines have been constructed for the last few years?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: You should ask my predecessors about that.

*131. [Postponed to 6th September 1954.]

GO-SLOW STRIKE IN BOMBAY DOCKS

*108. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. K. DHAGE) : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Labour Commissioner has submitted any report to Government on the situation arising out of the recent go-slow strike in the Bombay docks; and

(b) if so, what are his major findings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). The Chief Labour Commissioner intervened in the dispute and tried to bring about an amicable settlement between the parties. As no such settlement was found possible, he recommended that the dispute be referred to a Tribunal for adjudication. Government have accepted the recommendation and the dispute has been referred for adjudication to an Industrial Tribunal at Bombay. Copies of the two orders of reference are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 47.]

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, what were the causes of the dispute?

SHRI ABID ALI: Workers presented a list of demands. Then, as I have already stated, our conciliation

machinery tried to bring about a settlement. But as they did not succeed, the matter has been referred to adjudication.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Was the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act one of the demands, because the dock labourers were agitating for that for a very long time?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, it was one of the demands.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Was it one of the demands that the implementation of the Act should be retrospective?

SHRI ABID ALI: The list of demands, which has been referred to adjudication, is given in Schedule II.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: When were these demands, presented to the Government?

SHRI ABID ALI: In April.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Why did the Commissioner go so late to investigate into these demands?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir. He did not go very late. He took the first opportunity of going to Bombay.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Did the Government take any action on the go-slow tactics of the workers?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is for the employers to consider, not for us.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Does it mean that the employers are given a free hand to do anything or to take any action they like?

SHRI ABID ALI: They have to act according to law, as everybody should.

DEFALCATIONS IN THE P. AND T. DEPARTMENT

*109. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH' (on behalf of SHRI V. K. DHAGE) : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be