

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

pleased to state what action Government have taken or propose to take against those persons who have been found responsible for the defalcations or loss of public money disclosed in the Audit Report, 1953 of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Audit Report, 1953, relates to P. & T. accounts for the year 1951-52. According to the information available, during the year 1951-52, 945 persons were implicated in defalcation and loss of public money; of these, 198 were convicted by Courts of Law and 106 acquitted or discharged, 123 persons are still under trial; 60 absconded or died; 165 were punished departmentally; the conduct of 125 is under police enquiries and that of 168 is under various stages of departmental enquiry and disciplinary action.

#### AIR SERVICE TO AFGHANISTAN

\*110. SHRI D. NARAYAN (ON BEHALF OF SHRI M. VALIULLA): Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air service to Afghanistan is a profitable line; and

(b) whether there is any bilateral agreement between India and Afghanistan regarding the operation of air services between the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) The service is not making a profit at present.

(b) Yes Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know the losses that are incurred at present:

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is difficult to say about the exact amount of the losses, because that has got to be calculated annually.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: How long is this experiment of incurring losses going to be tried?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Delhi-Kabul service is an essential service and it has got to be undertaken in spite of the losses, but we hope that in course of time this service will pay its way.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I take it that the working of this line is on a no profit and no loss basis?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is very difficult to say, because we don't maintain separate accounts for each line but on the whole this line is running at a loss and will continue to run at a loss for some time. We propose to continue it in spite of the loss.

SHRI PRASADARAO: How is it possible, without maintaining separate accounts, to say that this line is running at a loss?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Because of the load factor, because enough passengers are not available, because flights have to be cancelled on account of bad weather in the months of November, December, January and February. All these factors are there.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is true that the Delhi-Kabul service is very important and essential, but may I know whether the Minister thinks the same of the flight from Kabul to Kandahar, and does he know that if the Kabul-Kandahar flight where there are few passengers is cancelled, this service will become profitable?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The service goes to Kandahar also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: His point is that the loss factor is only on the Kabul-Kandahar sector.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: The Delhi-Kabul service is very important. I concede it. We must have a service to Kabul, but have the Government the same attitude towards the flight