

ties. It was only a few weeks back that we were able to arrive at a compromise. Both the parties have accepted the Attorney-General as arbitrator for this purpose.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Did I understand the hon. Minister correctly when he said that there was some difficulty in finding an arbitrator?

PROF. G. RANGA: Who would be acceptable to both.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: If so, is it not necessary that the Government should find out the arbitrator whom the other party will be bound to accept? (*Interruptions.*)

(No reply.)

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that heavy pressure of work in the Ministry and inadequacy of staff have been responsible for the non-ascertainment of the financial position of the firm to whom Japanese cloth was sold before such sale?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I do not think that presumption will be correct.

STRIKE OF WORKERS IN D.V.C.

*485-A. SHRIMATI ANGELINA TIGA: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1,000 workers employed by a firm of contractors for the Konar Dam in the Damodar Valley Corporation are on strike since the 23rd November, 1953; and

(b) if so, what is the cause of the strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes. The strike lasted from 23rd to 28th November 1953.

(b) The labourers demanded bonus for daily paid workers on the same basis as for regular employees and went on strike to enforce their demand.

SHRIMATI ANGELINA TIGA: Were they among the displaced persons?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: No, Sir; that is not my information.

SHRIMATI ANGELINA TIGA: Do they come from the rationing area?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I think they are local people from that area only.

SHRIMATI ANGELINA TIGA: Do the Government have any control on the contractors working under large schemes as the D.V.C. so that the poor people do not suffer?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The officers of the D.V.C. did use their good offices with the contractor to meet their demands and bonus at the rate of 1½ months' wages was paid to the workers.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know who this particular contractor is?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I am not sure but I think they are the Hindi and Patel Construction Co.

NEW CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO AT HIRAKUD

*486. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state how many new contracts have been entered into, new tenders accepted and fresh work orders given in respect of the Hirakud Project since the present Chief Engineer has taken over charge at Hirakud?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI):

New contracts	..	64
New tenders	..	72
Fresh work orders	..	262

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, the names of the firms or individuals to whom the largest number of contracts has been given this month?