

the hon. Member that we are ourselves looking into the matter. Then it is not necessary for the workers to go on strike. That will not alter the situation.

DR. R. B. GOUR: How long will Government take to come to a decision?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The report was received yesterday.

DR. R. B. GOUR: But the mine is going to be closed on 31st May.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The decision will be taken before that.

SHRI ABID ALI: I cannot say. It will be at the earliest possible date. It may be earlier, it may be later.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Government at least state that the mine will not be closed pending consideration of the report?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is a suggestion for action.

LABOUR UNIONS IN TRIPURA

*668. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the number of labour unions so far registered by Government in Tripura?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Six labour unions have so far been registered in Tripura under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

SHRI B. RATH: How many applications are still pending with the Registrar of Trade Unions?

SHRI ABID ALI: The question was, how many unions have been registered, and we obtained the information from Tripura. In case any further information is needed, if the hon. Member puts a question, we shall obtain the information.

SHRI B. RATH: This supplementary question arises: how many applications

were received, and how many were accepted? It is a pertinent supplementary question.

SHRI ABID ALI: Then it should have been put in the main question.

SUSPENSION OF AIR SERVICE ON THE DELHI-GAUHATI ROUTE

*669. SHRIMATI PUSHPA LATA DAS: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the reasons why the Airways (India) Ltd., has been permitted to suspend its service on the Delhi-Gauhati route?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The operation of the service proved un-economic due to paucity of traffic and the Company was not willing to continue the service.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: May I know whether other services are running at a profit?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are carrying less than the average load factor.

PROF. G. RANGA: What will be the position when the Government of India takes over this air service. Are they likely to continue this service in view of its strategic importance?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We are ourselves anxious to have the service. I think it will be apparent that the average load factor carried by it was 23 per cent. of the total load capacity, and that was too low, and the operator did not think it economical to run it.

PROF. G. RANGA: In view of the fact that generally speaking the Government subsidise these air services, would the Government pay attention to the special need of this particular area and revise their decision at an early date?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We will keep the need of the area in view.