

SHRI B. RATH : Did he go to the place to bring about a settlement or did he merely communicate to the Union saying that he intends to bring about a settlement ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I am not sure about the information

SHRI B. RATH : May I know whether all the 14 workers who were suspended have been taken back ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : This relates to item No. (iii). It is being investigated. If the Regional Labour Commissioner is unsuccessful, we will consider taking up the matter to adjudication.

SHRI B. RATH : Is it a fact that the strike was precipitated because the Manager of the colliery incited some of the persons under his control to beat the Union workers ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I will check that information.

#### USE OF SPECIAL PLANE BY MINISTERS

\*108A. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministers for Production and Planning travelled recently by a special plane to and from Visakhapatnam in connection with the launching of a ship ;

(b) whether the plane was chartered or Government-owned ;

(c) if it was chartered what is the amount to be paid ;

(d) if Government-owned, what is the cost incurred on the journeys referred to above, inclusive of all charges ;

(e) what would be the cost for a similar trip by a service plane ; and

(f) what was the time saved by travelling in a special plane, instead of in a service plane ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER : WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN) : (a) Yes, the Minister for Production travelled by a special plane from Delhi to Visakhapatnam and back and the Minister for Planning travelled in the same plane from Delhi to Visakhapatnam and then to Hyderabad.

(b) The plane was chartered by the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd.

(c) Rs. 7,200 was paid by the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no direct air service from Delhi to Visakhapatnam. The cost of a similar trip by scheduled flight, for the same number of persons would be Rs. 7,900 via Calcutta and Rs. 7,200 via Madras.

(f) About three days.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that, if one were to leave Delhi this evening, one would be in Visakhapatnam tomorrow morning at 1 a.m. ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : It depends upon the date on which he leaves Delhi. I might inform the House and the hon. Member that flights from Madras to Visakhapatnam or from Calcutta to Visakhapatnam are not available every day. It is only on four days in the week that flights are available. In this particular case the ship was to be launched on the 9th July and there was no flight available on that day. There was none on the next day also.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Am I to understand from the hon. Minister's answer to (e) that if the two Ministers had travelled by a service plane, it would have cost the Government Rs. 7,900, Rs. 700 more than a chartered plane ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : What I said was that if the same number of persons had gone in a scheduled flight, it would have cost that amount of money.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : How many persons travelled in that plane?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : Fifteen.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister please let us know who those 15 persons were and why there was such a big celebration party?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : Among those 15 persons there were 10 officials including two Ministers. There were other invitees and one employee of the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd. and members of the staff of the two Ministers.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know the extra time that would have been taken if those persons had travelled by train?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : By train, it would have taken a much longer time. It would have taken 7 days to come back to Delhi.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know if the Madras-Calcutta flight of Airways India Ltd., could have stopped at Visakhapatnam on that day or the next day?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : As I have already stated, on the 9th and 10th there were no flights to and from Visakhapatnam. There was a flight available on Tuesday, but none on Monday.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I asked whether the plane from Madras to Calcutta does not stop at Visakhapatnam, not the plane from Calcutta to Madras.

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : It stops at Visakhapatnam.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : On this particular day?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : On that particular day there was no flight.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : From Madras to Calcutta?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : According to the latest time-table, there are no flights on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Only on other days flights are available. In this particular case, the function was on Wednesday, the 9th July.

SHRI O. SOBHANI : Would the Government kindly consider the desirability of exercising a little more economy in such matters?

(No answer was given.)

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MR. CHAIRMAN : Short notice question by Shri Borooah.

#### FLOODS IN N. E. FRONTIER AGENCIES

18. SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Central Government has been drawn to the information appearing in the 'Statesman' of July 21, 1952, about the devastating floods in North-East Frontier Agency at Saikhowa Ghat, Sadiya and Abor Hills;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been loss of human lives as a result of the floods of the Brahmaputra in Saikhowa Ghat;

(c) whether the Central Government have been requested by the Government of Assam for immediate supply of food grains and medicine to the flood-affected people of Mismi Hills and Abor Hills, Dibrugarh and other places of Assam; and

(d) what steps the Government have taken and propose to take for relief of the flood-affected people of Assam?