

**Shri Kidwai:** I am prepared to accept the complaint from the hon. Member, and I will look into it, if any further details are supplied.

#### STRATEGIC RAILWAYS

\*1078. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total length of strategic Railways, zone-wise?

(b) What is the total capital invested on these Railway lines?

(c) What are the factors taken into consideration to class a railway line as strategic?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) 26:87 miles on the Northern Railway only.

(b) Rs. 3.77 crores approximately.

(c) Defence needs of the country.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Are all these strategic lines running at a loss?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As I have said, there is only one strategic railway. Strategic railways are meant primarily for the defence needs of the country, and not for making any profits.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** In view of the fact that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated that strategic railways are meant for defence purposes, are the railways which run along the border between Pakistan and India also considered as strategic railways?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** No, they are not considered as strategic railways.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** What is the profit and loss account of this strategic railway?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I want notice.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** If loss be incurred on this railway, will it be defrayed by the Defence Ministry or the Railway Ministry?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** This is yet to be decided.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What actually is the railway which is regarded as strategic?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There is only one railway.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Which is that only railway?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** This railway line runs between Mukerian and Pathankot.

#### TRIPARTITE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PLANTATIONS

\*1081. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether a meeting was held at Shillong on the 27th February, 1953 of the tripartite Standing Committee of Plantations?

(b) If so, with what result?

(c) What were the subjects discussed in the meeting?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) to (c). A special meeting of the Standing Plantations Committee was held at Shillong on the 27th February 1953 which discussed the question of conversion of food-grain concessions in tea gardens into cash payments. There was general agreement at the meeting on the principle of conversion. But no agreement could be reached on the exact quantum of compensation to be paid in lieu of the concessions. However, the difference between industry and labour was considerably narrowed down as a result of the discussions.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** What was the difference?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The difference was about As. 2½.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What actually was the result finally about these cash grain concessions?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No decision could be reached at that conference.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** Was leave with pay agreed upon?

**Shri Abid Ali:** This item was not included in the agenda of the conference.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know whether it is a fact that the tea plantation owners wanted to refer the question of cash compensation to their respective principals? If so, have they submitted any reply? Are the Government aware of this?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes, Sir. The representatives of the planters wanted to consult their constituents. Subsequently they have written to us that they were not prepared even to accept As. 7½.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** What exactly were the proposals by the Government, and the counter-proposals by the employers and employees?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Government thought that if As. 9 were agreed to, that would be fair to both the parties.

#### DISPUTES IN INSURANCE CONCERNS IN DELHI

\*1082. **Shrimati Sushama Sen:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many Industrial disputes in the Insurance Concerns in Delhi have been referred to the conciliation office since January, 1951;

(b) the dates when the Conciliation Officer submitted his reports and when the reports were received by the Ministry of Labour;

(c) whether any interim relief has been given to the employees concerned; and

(d) if not, what arrangements have been made for an early settlement of the disputes?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) 32.

(b) Of the 32 cases, 14 were disposed of by the Conciliation Officer (Central), Delhi; 4 are pending in the Conciliation Officer's Office, and 8 are being considered in the Chief Labour Commissioner's Office. In the remaining six cases, the dates on which the reports were submitted by the Conciliation Officer to the Chief Labour Commissioner and those on which they were received in the Ministry are given in the Statement placed on the Table. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 22.]

(c) No. There is no statutory provision in regard to the grant of interim relief.

(d) Every effort is being made to expedite settlement of the disputes.

**Shrimati Sushama Sen:** May I know why any interim relief is not given to those who have been victimised, while there is delay in the Government machinery in disposing of the conciliation cases?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Of course, we will be happy if the employers would give relief, interim and otherwise also. But they are not willing to give.

#### STRIKE IN SOUTH BULLIAREE KENDWADIH COLLIERY

\*1083. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 2,400 miners of the South Bulliaree-Kendwadih Colliery have struck work?

(b) If so, since when and what is the total number of strikers?

(c) What are the demands of the strikers?

(d) Are they getting rice etc. at concessional rates?

(e) Is prospect of a settlement in view and if so, what are the difficulties which are delaying a settlement?

(f) What steps have been taken by Government so far in bringing about a settlement?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b). Yes; out of 2,400 about 2,200 workers went on strike on the 23rd February 1953.

(c) A statement giving the demands of the workers is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 23.]

(d) The management had issued a notice to the workers that the strikers would not be entitled to rations at concessional rates during the period of the strike.

(e) and (f). Every effort was made by the officers of the Government Conciliation Department to bring about a settlement but without any tangible result. In the course of the Conciliation proceedings, the Union, however, dropped seven of its demands. Of the remaining nine demands, three were not considered fit for adjudication, three raised matters of common interest to all coal-miners which are receiving attention separately and the remaining three demands, namely, Nos. 3, 4 and 11 have been referred for adjudication. An order prohibiting continuance of the strike has also been issued.

**Shri N. P. Sinha:** May I know, Sir, on what date has it been referred for adjudication?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Reference was made on 17th March 1953.

**Shri Ramananda Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the dismissal of Nokhari Sardar who joined the INTUC Union is the main cause of the strike?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No, Sir. According to our information, that was not the main reason.