

ernment to the workers concerned to the provident fund scheme and provided also that he is not entitled to any gratuity under any other scheme sanctioned by the Government for the same period of service.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Were any of the strikers victimised?

**Dr. Keskar:** I do not think so.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, whether employment has been given to all those people who were served with notice?

**Dr. Keskar:** I have said that quite a number of them have been immediately offered alternative jobs.

**Shri Punnoose:** The hon. Minister stated that a number of demands were put forward by the workers. May I know when these demands were first put forward and what steps were taken by Government to negotiate matters, before taking the whole thing to a crisis—before the strike broke out?

**Dr. Keskar:** I would not be able to give the dates when the demands were put forward or the periods for which the demands were pending. I read out all the demands just now. There were in all five demands.

**Mr. Speaker:** His point seems to be whether action on the demands was delayed by Government which led to the strike. So he wants to know the period. If he has got the information the hon. Minister may give it.

**Dr. Keskar:** I would require notice of that question.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether the grievances which are not yet redressed will be looked into by Government, so as to avoid another crisis or strike?

**Dr. Keskar:** All legitimate grievances will be looked into.

#### PORTUGUESE BANKS

\*232. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered the closing down of the Portuguese Banks in India; and

(b) if so, how many Banks have been affected?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of the Banking Companies Act, 1949,

served on the Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Bombay, the only Portuguese bank functioning in India, a notice withholding the licence to carry on banking business in India with effect from the 8th September, 1952.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the Government of India had any consultation with the Portuguese Government regarding this matter before closing down this bank?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** Yes, Sir, since 1947 the question was agitated. There were exchange difficulties and the monopoly of the exchange transactions vested with this bank. Therefore, the Indian Consul-General at Goa took up the question with them. At first they wanted to have a branch of the Imperial Bank, which was not however pursued. But another bank asked for permission. That permission was not granted. Negotiations were carried on first through the British Embassy at Lisbon and thereafter through our Legation at Lisbon.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know what steps the Government of India had taken to safeguard the interests of our people who have deposited money in this bank?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** According to our information and on the enquiries made, the Indian nationals do not suffer at all.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the Portuguese Government also has taken any action on any Indian bank functioning or proposing to function in Goa and, if so, what is their number?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** There is no Indian bank in Goa. Permission was not granted by them to open a branch, and that is the reason why we had to take action. The Reserve Bank was constrained to take action because there was discriminatory action taken by the Portuguese Government.

**Shri Veeraswamy:** May I know whether it is the policy of the Government not to allow foreign banks to function in India?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** No, no. Under section 22(3) (e) of the Act, if there is any discriminatory action taken by any Government then the Reserve Bank refuses licences.

#### EDUCATION THROUGH RADIO

\*235. **Shri M. E. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that educating the rural population through