

Efforts made to avert Port and Dock Workers Strike

576. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:
SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:
DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Port and Dock workers all over India had gone on strike recently;

(b) what were the demands of the workers;

(c) what were the reasons for the break down of the negotiations; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to avert the strike and to arrive at a negotiated settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand of the workers was an increase in Dearness Allowance rates by Rs. 100 per month for all categories of Port and Dock workers at all the major ports by way of interim relief from 1-1-1974.

(c) and (d). Government appointed a Wage Revision Committee for Port and Dock Workers on 11-12-1974, with a direction to give its recommendations regarding interim relief within three months.

However, in view of the threat of strike from 16-1-1975, the Minister of Shipping and Transport held discussions with the Federations of Port and Dock Workers on 28-12-1974, 8-1-1975 and 9-1-1975. A short interval was sought for announcing the Government's decision on interim relief in consultation with the Wage Revision Committee. The labour leaders did not agree. As a last minute effort to

avert the strike, a further meeting with the leaders of the three Federations was convened by the Minister on 15-1-1975. The Report of the Wage Revision Committee on Interim Relief was also received on 15-1-1975. On the basis of its recommendations, the Minister indicated that he was prepared to recommend the grant of the following interim reliefs:—

From 1-1-1974 to 5-7-74: a lump sum of Rs. 120.

From 6-7-1974 to 31-12-1974: a lump sum of Rs. 180.

From 1-1-1975: Rs. 50 per mensem.

This was not acceptable to the labour leaders. They demanded interim reliefs of Rs. 50 per month for 1974 and Rs. 60 per month from 1-1-1975. Thus the talks broke down and workers went on strike from 16-1-1975.

As the continuance of the strike was not in the national interest, the Minister of Shipping and Transport agreed to have further discussions with the labour leaders on 19-1-1975. As a result of these discussions, a settlement was reached and the strike was called off.

Alleged victimisation of Employees of Samachar Bharati, New Delhi

577. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that employees of "Samachar Bharati" News Agency, New Delhi are being victimised for their trade union activities;

(b) whether President of the Samachar Bharati Employees, Union was first transferred to Srinagar and later when the employees protested, he was sent to Chandigarh on special assignment;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Union; and if so, their demands; and