

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) :**

(a) to (d). A Study Group was set up in March, 1967 to examine the traffic potential of Paradip Port other than iron ore. The Report of the Study Group was received in November, 1967. Copies of the Report have already been placed in the Parliament Library.

This Report envisaged that by about 1970-71, the Port would be called upon to handle a traffic of about 3.4 lakh tonnes of general cargo and recommended that at least one general cargo berth should be constructed at Paradip. Based on this recommendation, the proposal for the construction of one general cargo berth is now under examination.

**Plane for P. N.'s Return Journey from Latin America**

2693. **SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :**  
**SHRI K. RAMANI :**  
**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister travelled in an Air-India plane with the Peace Corps Volunteers on her return journey from New York to Delhi, after her recent tour of Latin American countries ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the plane was chartered for the Peace Corps Volunteers and the Prime Minister had been given lift ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for travelling in a plane chartered for the Peace Corps Volunteers ?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :**

(a) to (c). The Prime Minister and Party travelled on payment of the normal fare on Air-India flight No. 104 of October 15, 1968 from New York to New Delhi. The flight had been chartered by U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers earlier in June, 1968. The Prime Minister and her party were accommodated in this flight as there was no other Air-India flight on that date. An equivalent number of passengers were transferred by Air-India from the charter flight to subsequent scheduled flights of

Air-India from New York to New Delhi. This arrangement did not involve any concession being given either by Air-India or the charterer to the Prime Minister and Party. The travel of Prime Minister and party by a foreign airline would have been meant loss of foreign exchange to the country and loss of revenue to Air-India.

**Labour Commissioner for Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

2694. **SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :**  
**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :**  
**SHRI GANESH GHOSH :**  
**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :**  
**SHRI UMANATH :**  
**SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also acting as a Labour Commissioner ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not having a separate Labour Commissioner ;

(c) whether Government have received any representation regarding this ;

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon ; and

(e) if no decision has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) to (e). The Deputy Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is at present also the *ex-officio* Labour Commissioner for the Islands. A separate post of Labour Commissioner for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has, however, been sanctioned recently.

**Kuki Chief's House Set on Fire**

2695. **SHRI HIMAT SINGKA :**  
**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that about 40 hostiles equipped with automatic weapons had set on fire the house of a Kuki Chief