

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

**Wednesday, the 6th June, 1962/
Jyaistha, 16th 1884 (Saka).**

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

'Silicosis' in Mica Mines

***1310. Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the disease of 'Silicosis' is widely prevalent in Mica Mining Area of Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) The disease is prevalent but not widely.

(b) Wet drilling and suppression of dust have been made compulsory in all mica mines. Regular inspections are being made to enforce them.

Eight beds have been reserved in the T.B. Hospital, Nellore for the exclusive use of T.B. and Silico-T.B. patients among the mica miners and their families, and the State Government have been requested to reserve three more beds. Travelling allowance is paid to the mica miners who attend the T.B. Hospital, Nellore as outdoor-patients.

Arrangements are being made for the construction of a T.B. ward in the

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hospital at Kalichedu, for the domiciliary treatment of T.B. and silicosis patients, and for mass X-ray of mica miners.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that mica miners are not using wet drillers and so on and are not implementing the regulations issued by the Department?

Shri Hathi: I think wet drilling is being done. They have to do it.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Are the Government aware of the fact that these diseased people are not being paid compensation even two or three years after death? Will the Government take care and see that compensation is paid in time?

Shri Hathi: Certainly it will be seen that they are paid compensation if they suffer or contract the disease during employment.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Are such facilities as have been set out in the hon. Minister's answer extended to all labour who are exposed to what are called occupational diseases?

Mr. Speaker: That is a wide question.

Shri Warrior: What is the percentage of incidence of silicosis in mica mines and what preventive measures have been taken to reduce the number year by year?

Shri Hathi: The percentage in mica mines in Andhra Pradesh in 1955 was 1.5 for underground workers. In 1960 it was 2.41 per cent. and in 1961, I think, it was 1 per cent. The precautions that have been taken are that there should be wet drilling and that the dust should be stopped as far as possible.

श्री बड़े : जो माइका माइन्स प्राइवेट सेक्टर में झाबवा (मध्य प्रदेश में) चलती है क्या जिनमें भी हवा से जो मज़दूरों को नुकसान होता है उसके लिए मेडिकल फैमिलिटी सरकार की तरफ से दी जाती है?

Shri Hathi: All mines.

Shri K. R. Gupta: Is the disease prevalent in other areas also, particularly, Rajasthan?

Shri Hathi: It is not there in Rajasthan but in Bihar it is there.

Shri K. N. Pande: What measures have been taken of late to stop this dust coming there?

Shri Hathi: I have answered that

Islands in Ceylon

***1311. Shri Umanath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians staying in Ceylon from 1949 onwards are required by the High Commissioner there to produce documentary evidence to prove that they have been staying there from such a date; and

(b) if so, their number?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Persons who have been staying in Ceylon since 1st November, 1949 or later who have applied for travel documents or for registration as Indian citizens at our High Commission in Colombo have to produce documentary evidence in support of their applications.

(b) No accurate statistics regarding the number of such persons are available. However, over 500 such applications were received during 1961.

Shri Umanath: What is the purpose of this calling of documentary evidence from those persons who are staying in Ceylon since long?

Shri Dinesh Singh: This is part of the agreement that was reached between

the two Prime Ministers in October, 1949. The main purpose is to check illicit immigration.

Shri Umanath: What is the sort of documentary evidence that the High Commissioner requires of them, and how do Government propose to deal with those persons who have actually been staying there from 1949 but do not have documentary evidence?

Shri Dinesh Singh: This documentary evidence is either some evidence they can produce, from India, on which we refer the cases to India, or some documentary evidence like rice ration books or any other papers to establish their stay in Ceylon.

Shri Umanath: May I have the answer to the other part of the question? How do Government propose to deal with those Indians who have been staying there from 1949 but do not have documentary evidence?

Mr. Speaker: If there is a clear requirement that the documentary evidence would be essential, how they would deal with it otherwise does not arise.

Shri Warior: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new Bill that is going to be introduced in the Ceylonese Parliament debarring persons of Indian origin from being employed in the plantations in Ceylon, and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Yes, Sir, the matter is under negotiation with the Ceylon Government.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of Government is drawn to the Ceylonese Prime Minister's statement in the House of Representatives to the effect that official level talks should precede the talks that they propose to have with our Prime Minister when he visits Colombo in July; if so, whether those official level talks have actually taken