

of that should be shared by the Government of India and how much by the State and all that. The whole question is under consideration—and particularly with reference to Madhya Pradesh.

#### Death of Fireman due to Heat-Stroke

\*1997. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 5th June, 1958 a fireman, Ramjhorl Ram of Chitor Loco collapsed in the engine;

(b) if so, the cause of the collapse;

(c) whether there have been casualties amongst railwaymen on Eastern Railway on account of the extraordinary heat-wave in May and June, 1958;

(d) if so, their number and nature; and

(e) whether any compensation and if so, how much has been granted to the victims or their dependents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, at Chitpur (and not at Chitor).

(b) Not known as the result of the post-mortem examination is still not available.

(c) Yes.

(d) 793 cases of heat exhaustion, out of which there were 6 deaths suspected to be due to the extraordinary heat-wave.

(e) The question of payment of compensation is under consideration.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if our Railways make any provision for relief especially to drivers and firemen regarding a shorter week or lesser hours of work during periods of heat-wave when accidents are not unlikely?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No provision for shortening the hours of work is made. In fact, during the extremely hot weather, lot of people fall sick

and those who are on duty sometimes have to work longer hours. This is a point which needs looking into and I will certainly look into it.

Shri Tangamani: The death occurred as early as June 5, 1958; and the hon. Deputy Minister says that the post-mortem report is not available. May I know when he will be able to get the report?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The post-mortem case was entrusted to the G.R.P. The Railway authorities have been making persistent efforts to get the post-mortem examination report.

Mr. Speaker: What is the G.R.P.?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Government Railway Police. This body was taken to D. R. Singh Hospital which is a railway hospital. We have been trying our best to get the report as early as possible. But, I am sorry it has been delayed; and we will make further efforts.

Mr. Speaker: The post-mortem must have been completed long ago. Does it take so long to get the post-mortem certificate?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We have been writing to the police to let us have the report. I am sorry it has not been forthcoming. We will make further efforts.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of the Government was drawn to the statement made by the driver of the Kishanganj local train at Sealdah that was involved in a riot to the effect that 'this is the reward for my working 16 hours in a day in the unbearable heat of the engine'. If so, what steps were taken to give relief to the drivers and foremen who are made to work for 16 hours a day in the unbearable heat of the engine?

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Minister says that he is looking into the matter; and so far nothing has been done and they are doing that now.

Shri Hem Barua: It is a statement made by a driver. May I know if it

is a fact that they have been made to work for 16 hours a day.

**Mr. Speaker:** In answer to a previous question, the hon. Deputy Minister has said that a number of people fall sick and the others are made to work longer hours than they are legitimately bound to do. Unfortunately, till now, no arrangement has been made to remove this inconvenience; and they are looking into this matter. The hon. Member is only giving another instance. The Minister is taking action.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** These are the only instances that were brought to the notice of the hon. Minister. But, there are other instances like this. I want to know what positive steps have been taken to provide saline tablets and other things that have been prescribed by the medical authorities for this particular period from 15th May to 20th June.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** During the excessively hot weather, salt tablets are prescribed for the drivers and other people who work on engines. These tablets are given.

**Shri Tangamani:** The hon. Deputy Minister stated that there have been 6 deaths. May I know whether any ad hoc payment has been made as was done by the Defence Ministry in other cases?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** So far no ad hoc payment has been made. But, I will try to expedite the payment as much as possible.

#### Land

\*1098. **Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tripura Administration has introduced a system which demands indemnity and security bond from the claimant at the time of payment of awarded sum for the land acquired very recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the claimants especially of moffusil

areas are experiencing difficulties on account of the introduction of this new system; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this direction?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha at the earliest.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether Government is aware of the harassment that the rural people have to undergo because of such a new system—a new Act?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have yet to get all the details from the Tripura Government and it takes time. Unless I get the full information I won't be able to give the correct reply.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether the introduction of such a new system or a new Act is within the competence of the Tripura Administration without the approval of the Indian Parliament or of the Home Ministry of the Government of India or the Advisory Committee for Tripura Affairs

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is putting a question of law and asking for opinion in a legal matter. He suggests that it is illegal and *ultra vires*.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I have yet to get all the details from the State Government. Until I get the full details, I won't be able to say anything in the matter.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Sir, may I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Tripura the claimants have to take the compensation money from the Agartala treasury, whereas in their own respective towns there are government treasury officers, and that because of that difficulty, in many cases, the claimants have stopped taking their compensation money as the compensation money is smaller than the expenditure they have to incur in travelling and other things?