

(b) the reasons for the delay in the construction of that water channel (Kuhal).

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table.

Deaths Due to Firing Practice Near Mehrauli, Delhi

***48. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two persons were killed and several others injured grievously by a shell fired by the Army Artillery during a firing practice at the Khanpur artillery firing range near Mehrauli in Delhi;

(b) if so, full details of the incident; and

(c) steps taken to pay compensation to the families of the deceased and to those injured?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) and (b). On the 16th February, 1962 certain Artillery units were being exercised with practice firing on the Tughlakabad Ranges which is a notified Field Firing Area. The Ranges had been cleared for firing and a clearance certificate was obtained from the civil authorities before the commencement of firing.

At 13.00 hours, of the targets engaged, one was in the JATWALA JOHAR Area. No persons were noticed in the area from the Observation Post. However, personnel participating in the exercises on reaching the area found two civilians dead and one injured. The injured person was given first aid and removed to Safdarjang Hospital where he died on the 7th March.

According to information received from the civil authorities, seven others had been injured but they went direct to the Hospital for treatment. Four

of them have been discharged and three others are still in the hospital but are reported to be making good progress.

(c) Compensation for damage to person or property arising out of firing practices in a notified area are paid on the recommendations of the civil revenue authorities. So far no application or representation for compensation has been received by the local military authorities.

Rourkela Steel Plant

***53. Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the date of commissioning of the Third Blast Furnace at Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) whether this furnace is working at its full capacity?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 5th January, 1962.

(b) The furnace is at present working to the extent of about 60 per cent of its capacity.

Road in Uhal Valley in Himachal Pradesh

***54. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uhal Valley truckable road in Tehsil Jogindernagar, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh has been included in the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the year in which it will be taken up for construction?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table.