

SCRAP IRON (EXPORT)

***61. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of scrap iron exported from Madras State annually;

(b) the restrictions imposed on the export of scrap iron from India; and

(c) whether Government have acceded to the requests made by the exporters of Madras State for the relaxation of these restrictions?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 4945 tons in 1952.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14.]

(c) No, Sir.

ACCIDENT IN CHANDAMATA MINES

***75. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether four miners were killed and seven were seriously injured in an accident in the Chandamata Mines (Madhya Pradesh) on the 14th April, 1953;

(b) whether it is a fact that these miners were forced to go underground although there was no proper timbering at the particular place;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint an enquiry committee with a representative of organised miners as one of the members to ascertain the cause of the accident;

(d) whether the injured miners and the dependants of those killed have been paid any compensation; and

(e) if so, how much?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably, the hon. Member has in mind the accident which occurred in the North Chandametta mine on the 15th April 1953. Two miners were killed and four other workers were seriously injured in the accident.

(b) This was what one miner deposed in his evidence but his statement was not corroborated by other workers. According to the Inspector who inspected the place of accident on the day of occurrence, timbering at the place was satisfactory.

(c) The accident has already been investigated by the Mines Inspectorate and its cause clearly established. The night shift overman, who is held responsible for the accident, is being prosecuted. In the circumstances, no separate enquiry is considered necessary.

(d) and (e). Liability for payment of compensation has been admitted by the mines authorities. Payments of compensation is governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act, which is administered by the State Government. As such, information as to the amount of compensation paid is not available.

DUST-STORMS IN DELHI

***76. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the frequent and persistent dust-storms in Delhi are due to the possible approach of the Rajasthan Desert to Delhi?

(b) Have any measures been adopted by Government to arrest this approach?

(c) If so, what are these measures?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Storms are dependent on seasonal, meteorological condition prevailing over land and sea, but their power to pick up dust, carry it and deposit it elsewhere depends on their intensity and the nature and density of the ground covered. When the protective mantle of vegetation is destroyed by faulty land-use, dust-storms increased in frequency and severity.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]