

even got a complete survey as yet. Therefore, it is not possible to say how much land there is and how much land can be utilised for this purpose.

CENTRAL CONCILIATION OFFICE, PATNA

*677. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to abolish the Central Conciliation Office, Patna;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of in 1951, 1952 and 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Yes; for reasons of economy two posts of Conciliation Officers have been abolished. Consequently the office at Patna has been closed.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III. annexure No. 37].

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In view of the fact that this Office has been able to dispose of a large number of cases, do Government propose to reopen this Office?

Shri Abid Ali: No. The work at Patna does not justify the existence of such an Office there.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Are Government aware that Bihar being an industrial area, and the disputes being very frequent, the abolition of this Office will make justice very dear to the labouring class?

Mr. Speaker: If I mistake not, this very supplementary question was put some time back.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What alternative have Government suggested, after the abolition of this Office at Patna?

Shri Abid Ali: The Asansol Office will attend to the work at Patna also.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the disputes in the coalfields

in Bihar are increasing day by day due to the machinations of the British capitalists who own the mines there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member must not make insinuations and allegations of that kind.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is a fact.

TRAIN EXAMINERS

*679. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the present pay scale and recruitment rules for Train Examiners;

(b) whether the pay scale and status of Train Examiners are lower than those of the category of railway employees classed as 'Technical Supervisory Personnel'; and

(c) to what extent the recommendations of the Isaac and Letham Committee Report on Accident Enquiry, with regard to the training and promotion of Train Examiners have been accepted and implemented by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The lowest scale of pay for Train Examiners is Rs. 80-5-120-EB-6-160. Apprentices with the minimum qualification of matriculation are recruited and are given training for a period of 4 years. Promotion is also made to this grade from skilled staff in the Carriage and Wagon Branch.

(b) Yes.

(c) The system of apprenticeship has already been introduced and the recruitment of apprentices is in force on the various Railways.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that Dr. John Matthai, when he was Railway Minister here, had definitely stated that the service conditions of train examiners should be brought on a par with those of other technical supervisory personnel, such as foremen, chargemen etc.?

Shri Alagesan: In fact, the Central Pay Commission fixed the lowest scale