

ठाकुर मुगल किशोर सिंह : वार्षिक रिपोर्ट जो भेजी जाती है उससे क्या पता चलता है कि तीन महीने के अन्दर कम्प्लेन्ट्स का फ़ैसला हो जाता है या नहीं?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : तीन महीने से पहले ही हो जाता है, कुछ केसेज में मुमकिन है तीन महीने लग जाते हों, लेकिन आम तौर से इस से जल्दी हो जाना चाहिये ।

पंडित सी० एन० मालवीय : क्या यह सही है कि सेंट्रल रेलवे पर कोई ऐसा क्रायदा है कि पांच रुपये तक की कम्प्लेन्ट्स नहीं ली जाती, और भोपाल के व्यापारियों की तरफ़ से क्या कोई शिकायत मिली है कि उन का जो माल होता है उस में नुकसान पांच रुपये से ज्यादा का नहीं होता है, और इसलिये उन की सुनवाई नहीं होती ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : यह शिकायतें जो हैं वह बिल्कुल दूसरी चीज़ के लिये हैं । यह शिकायतें उनके लिये हैं जो कि पैसेन्जर्स सफ़र करते हैं और शिकायतें करते हैं, व्यापारियों की शिकायत नहीं हैं । लेकिन मैं यह समझा नहीं कि पांच रुपये से कम की शिकायतें नहीं ली जातीं, यह किस चीज़ के लिये हैं ।

Shri G. S. Singh: May I know, Sir, how frequently, if at all, the complaint books maintained at level-crossings are scrutinised by the authorities?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The complaint books maintained at all level-crossings are very regularly scrutinised by the respective inspectors.

डा० सुरेश चन्द्र : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि क्या ऐसी भी शिकायतें आई हैं कि रेलवे अधिकारियों ने शिकायत की पुस्तकें देने से इन्कार किया है ?

श्री साहबबाबू झा : जी हाँ, कई बड़ा ऐसी भी शिकायतें आई हैं कि रेलवे मुलाजमीन

ने किताब देने से इन्कार किया है, और उन के खिलाफ़ मुनासिब कार्रवाही की गई ।

Shri H. G. Valshnav: Do the authorities take any note of the complaints which appear in newspapers?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes. Press cuttings are received in the Railway Board as well as seen by the General Managers, and action taken.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, the reason why the punishment meted out to the staff is not disclosed to the complainants?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are various reasons. Firstly, before awarding the punishment, we have to take various factors into consideration concerning the individual to whom punishment is being awarded. Sometimes it may happen that for some offence different punishments may be given. So we do not want to create any controversy outside. Also, there is a method of appeal open to members of the staff and generally it is a very lengthy procedure. We do not wish to give the information until the appeal is decided.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AT CHANDA

*1454. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the construction of the maternity block in the Government Hospital at Chanda in Madhya Pradesh has been completed?

(b) What is the total cost involved and what is the likely number of beds?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The total estimated cost is Rs. 67,300 non-recurring and Rs. 1,000 per annum recurring. The number of beds provided is 10.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the number of labourers for whom this is meant?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not quite sure, so I cannot give it at present. I shall certainly give that information to the hon. Member if he so desires.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is any grant being made to the hospital for service?

Shri V. V. Giri: Recurring expenditure as regards repairs to building, furniture and replacement will be borne by the main hospital at Chanda. Rooms will be free of rent to the patients coming from mines. All available medicines in the hospital will be available free to them. The collieries concerned will bear the charges of any special treatment required for them. Maternity cases and children will not be charged X-ray, operation and delivery fees.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the 10 beds provided for will meet the need?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what is the annual contribution paid to this maternity block from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation fund?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am sorry the information is not available; I shall supply it to the hon. Member.

MICA MINING INDUSTRY

*1455. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any survey was conducted in mica mining industry of Bihar with regard to occupational diseases?

(b) If so, what was the finding with regard to (i) Nodular conglomerate silicosis and (ii) pulmonary tuberculosis?

(c) What was the degree of dustiness of the occupations?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) As a long period of exposure is required for the development of the disease, workers who had put in

3 years service as drillers and 5 years service as underground workers were selected for detailed examination of the 329 persons examined, (i) Nodular and conglomerate silicosis was found in 34.1 per cent. of the cases and was directly associated with the degree of dustiness of the occupations as well as the duration of time that they had worked at those occupations; (ii) Pulmonary tuberculosis was found in 18.6 per cent.

(c) It varied from one occupation to another, being highest (an average of 800 million particles per cubic foot) for pneumatic drilling done with no dust control measures, and lowest for wet drilling (an average of 7 million particles per cubic foot). A detailed statement is also placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 6.]

The rock dust to which the miners were exposed varied in silica content from 11 per cent. to 67 per cent. with a media of 42 per cent.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: From the detailed report which is given now, it appears that the working conditions in these mines are terrible. Has the Government taken any steps to redress the situation?

Shri V. V. Giri: The following recommendations have been made after due enquiry by the Chief Inspector of Factories, assisted by two experts from members of the Industrial Hygiene Unit under the U.S. Technical Co-operation Administration Programme.

(1) Only wet drilling is permitted pending an investigation of the reasons for the ineffectiveness of the dust-crafts.

(2) Wet drilling in excess of 4 hours per day per driller should not be permitted unless sufficient mechanical ventilation is provided to reduce the dust concentration during drilling to below 5 million particles per cubic foot.