

steady and the prices in India have been made to fall on account of the slump, the margin of profit enjoyed by the European interests has increased.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to find that out.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** Is the hon. Minister now in a position to answer my question, namely, that the retail price of tea in India is much higher than the retail price of tea in the United Kingdom?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should still like to have notice.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if Government have received any complaints that the conditions under which Indian tea is auctioned in London are not favourable and are discriminatory?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have no ready information on that point. I shall find out if there are any complaints received.

**Mr. Speaker:** The questions are more or less in the nature of giving information, rather than asking for information.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** We simply draw pointed attention to certain state of affairs.

**Shri Sarmah:** Will Government be pleased to instruct the Tea Enquiry Committee to go into this alleged matter of collusive bidding in Calcutta?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I said I shall try to find out.

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** Sometimes these representations are addressed to the Finance Ministry. About two days ago I received a representation in which it is alleged that by some arrangement of sales in England an attempt is made to transfer the burden of the subsidy from England to India. I have sent that representation to the Commerce and Industry Ministry for investigation and I shall have a chance of asking the official committee to enquire into this particular allegation.

#### ACCIDENT IN SINGARENI COLLIERIES

**\*1889. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the accident that occurred in the Singareni Collieries, Kothagudium on 2nd June, 1952;

(b) how many were injured and the number died subsequently;

(c) whether any enquiry, official or non-official, was held; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are its findings?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) The accident occurred as a result of a cage filled with men striking against the pit bottom.

(b) Twenty-four persons were injured. No report has been received of any person having died subsequently.

(c) An enquiry was held by a Junior Inspector of Mines.

(d) *Prima facie* it appears the winding engine driver caused the accident either wilfully or by negligence. The matter is however under investigation.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** May I know the circumstances under which the carrying capacity of the cage was exceeded?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Those circumstances are being investigated. The general rule seems to be that ten alone should get into the cage; but 25 got into it.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** Are Government aware that this is the second accident within the course of two months?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I take the information from the hon. Member.

**Dr. Jaisoorya:** Did I hear the hon. Minister to say that a Junior Inspector of Mines is investigating into the matter?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Yes.

**Dr. Jaisoorya:** Why?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Because he alone was available.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** Was the winding engine driver technically qualified for the job, or was he promoted to this job on account of his anti-trade union activities?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** He was technically qualified.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know if adequate compensation has been given to the injured persons in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Yes, of course.

#### JUTE PLANTS

**\*1891. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the results that the substitution of the old jute plants by modern ones