

(b) the total number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

(c) the classes of employees involved in the accident;

(d) the interval between the occurrence of the accident and the beginning of rescue operations; and

(e) the compensations proposed to be paid to the victims?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) A violent rockburst.

(b) 20 killed and 9 injured.

(c) 14 workmen and 6 mestries among those killed.

(d) About three hours. This was due to the continuance of rockbursts throughout that period rendering rescue operations unsafe.

(e) Compensation is payable in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which is administered by State Governments.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether any investigation has been carried out by Government to find the actual cause of this accident?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** The investigation is being carried out and when the report comes I shall place it on the Table of the House.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the investigation that is being carried out is an official or non-official one?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I think it is an official enquiry.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether it is a fact that the precautions that are normally taken in such mines were found absent during the time of the accident?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Not so, Sir. All precautions are being taken and anxiously taken and methods are investigated to see that these accidents are minimised.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Has it come to the notice of Government that these accidents are occurring continuously. It is the deepest gold mine in the world and the concessionaries have gone beyond the safe depth?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I can assure my hon. friend that they are not continuously happening. These accidents, I am sure, are decreasing instead of increasing and we are thinking of appointing a committee to make an investigation into this matter very soon.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** May I know, Sir, whether it is the deepest mine in the world and these accidents are due to the fact.....

**Shri V. V. Giri:** He is only repeating his opinion. The committee that is to be appointed will look into it.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Such committees have been appointed before and reports have come so many times.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether representations of the trade unions are taken into consideration and action taken to prevent such accidents in future?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** In the appointment of that committee that we are considering, that matter will be taken into consideration.

#### BOUNDARY DEMARCATION (EXPENDITURE)

**\*308. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred up till now for the demarcation of boundaries between Eastern Pakistan on the one hand and West Bengal and Assam on the other and the way it is shared between Pakistan and India; and

(b) the number of forcible occupations of the border areas by Pakistan that have taken place after the demarcation work began?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):**

(a) The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India up to 31st March 1952 was Rs. 8,53,586-12-0. All joint expenditure is met by Pakistan and India in equal shares, but cost of staff and construction of pillars in the zone allotted to each country for the purpose of construction of pillars on the Bengal border is borne by the Government concerned.

(b) Eight.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know the approximate date when the demarcation of these boundaries will be completed?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It is very difficult to say. There are some boundary disputes and it will take time before they are settled.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** What are the boundary marks that have been used—are they masonry pillars or steel rods?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I think they are masonry pillars.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know what steps have been taken by Government to restore those areas which were forcibly taken by Pakistan to the Indian Government?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** An agreement to maintain *status quo* was reached. Three of these disputes relate to Bengal and five to Assam. A decision has been reached that the position as existed on the 11th August 1951 should be restored and the armed forces should withdraw to their original positions.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know why this particular date was fixed. The portions occupied previous to that by Pakistan—were those under the Indian territory or were those areas originally belonging to Pakistan?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** These territories are all in dispute. Until a proper boundary is fixed arguments go on. Each side says that a particular little patch of territory belongs to it. So the real way to do it is to fix the final boundary when there will be no room for doubt about the territory. While the boundary is being fixed in various places, they came to the conclusion; all right we shall accept the position as it was on a certain date in 1951 and troops will be withdrawn. These are temporary decisions while the boundary is being fixed.

**Shrimati Khongmen:** Are Government aware that large portion of land which originally belonged to the Khasi States is now in Pakistan?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I require notice of that question.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** Are the disputes between Assam and Eastern Pakistan on the Goalpara border being finally settled?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The Bagge Tribunal's decision regarding the Goalpara border has been accepted by India and Pakistan. Differences have however arisen with regard to the actual demarcation of the boundary in accordance with those decisions.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Are we to understand that the Bagge Tribunal's decision has not settled the demarcation of the boundary definitely?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It has settled it in theory, but there is still dispute about the actual demarcation of the boundary and the interpretation of that decision.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** With regard to the hon. the Prime Minister's reply am I

to understand that these disputed areas were continuously changing hands before the appointed date?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am not quite sure what the hon. Member means by saying that each disputed area was continually changing hands. Occasionally some small areas did change hands.

#### REPORT OF STATE TRADING COMMITTEE

\*309. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the main recommendations of the State Trading Committee and the action taken upon each of them?

(b) When was the report submitted?

(c) Is there any time-limit fixed for finalising its consideration?

(d) If not, why not?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) The main recommendation of the Committee, in brief, is that the present State trading activities of Government, namely, foodgrains, fertilizers, steel and coal should be taken over by a Corporation from the existing Government departments. The Committee also recommended that this Corporation should take up import of East African cotton, export of short staple cotton and cottage industry products. No action has so far been taken on these recommendations.

(b) 3rd August, 1950.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The issues raised by the recommendations contained in the report have to be considered in the light of policies of Government in regard to Trade and Industry. The report will be considered along with all other relevant documents when policies are determined in regard to particular trades covered by the report.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Is it a fact that most of the neighbouring countries on the borders of India are resorting to State trading in an increased degree?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I shall be quite willing to take that information from the hon. Member.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if this Committee made any recommendations regarding trading in jute goods?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, the Committee has recommended centralised buying by the trade itself. But