

EMPLOYEES OF BLAST FURNACE

*657. **Shri Subodh Hasda:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any special steps for the maintenance of health of the employees of the Blast Furnace at Jamshedpur and other steel factories; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Section 13 of the Factories Act, 1948, specifies the steps to be taken by the employers to protect workers from excessive heat and to ensure adequate ventilation in factories.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether the salaries paid to the employees are sufficient for their health?

Shri Abid Ali: The salary is fixed according to the agreement or tribunal awards: all these factors are taken into consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the health of such employees are examined by specialists every now and then and whether there is any arrangement for special treatment?

Shri Abid Ali: The reports submitted by the State Governments show that there are no special health hazards to the workers employed in this kind of furnace. With regard to the latter part of the question, I would require notice.

श्री सुबोध हसी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जैसे अहमदाबाद की कपड़ों की मिलों के लिये मिस्टर एंडो, अमेरिकन एक्सपर्ट बुलाये गये थे टेम्परचर ठीक करने के लिये और यह बताने के लिये कि किस टेम्परचर में बर्कर काम करें, वैसे कोई एक्सपर्ट बलास्ट फरनेस के लिये भी बुलाया गया है जो टेम्परचर बर्गरह को ठीक रखने के लिये सलाह दे ?

श्री आशुप अली : वह टीम यह काम भी करेगी ।

POSTAL SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

*660. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concession granted for withdrawal of money twice a week to the depositors of Post Office Savings Bank Accounts in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras G.P.Os. and New Delhi Head Post Office is on an experimental basis; and

(b) if so, whether this concession will be extended to all the Post Offices in the country in due course?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) This will be examined after the results of the experiment are known.

RESEARCH IN BANANA CULTIVATION

*663. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiments on banana cultivation and manurial trial therefor were made in any of the Research Station in India;

(b) if so, the names of those institutions and how far the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have given assistance in the matter;

(c) whether the results of the application of best manurial dose per plant have been accepted by Government; and

(d) whether any researches have been carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Manurial experiments on banana are being conducted at the Banana Research Stations at Aduthurai in Madras State and Chinsura in West Bengal. These research Stations are at present being financed