

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 42].

WORKSHOP AT BONGAIGAON

*1716. **Shri Brohmo-Choudhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a Railway Timber Workshop at Bongaigaon (Assam);

(b) if so, when the construction work will be undertaken; and

(c) when the Workshop is likely to start functioning?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1955-56.

(c) Early in 1956-57.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES

*1717. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the cases families of victims of coal mine disasters have been granted a monthly assistance of Rs. 10 only;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revise the policy of giving such meagre grants; and

(c) whether Government will place on the Table of the House a list of victims of the disasters that occurred in the mines during 1954-55 and the monthly assistance granted to their families?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No. Apart from the payment prescribed under the Workmen's Compensation Act, there is no provision for making any payment to the families of victims of coal mine disasters. In the case of the two major disasters at Newton Chikli and Amlabad Collieries, additional assistance was considered necessary in view of the number of families affected and the

consequent burden on local resources. Consequently a purely *ex-gratia* allowance of Rs. 10 per month for a period of 2 years to each widow and scholarship of Rs. 5 per month to each of the children of the deceased attending School for a period of three years was made out of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 43].

CHANDIGARH RAIL LINK

*1718. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the actual amount spent on the Chandigarh rail link?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The work is estimated to cost Rs. 45 lakhs approximately.

HEALTH SURVEY OF WORKERS ON TEA PLANTATIONS

*1719. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to reply given to starred question No. 1354 on the 27th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the services of an expert from the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, London have since been secured for surveying the health conditions of tea labourers of Assam and West Bengal; and

(b) the results of the survey achieved so far, in case it has been undertaken?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN SAURASHTRA

*1720. **Dr. J. N. Parekh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work on the National Highways in Saurashtra;