

**Mr. Speaker:** The question, I am afraid, is much wider. This question relates to a certain line. The hon. Member is alleging that there is overcrowding in all trains leaving Delhi.

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** Overcrowding during the last one month or so has been mostly due to the Industrial Exhibition. It was not for the Railway Ministry to ask the Commerce and Industry Ministry not to hold that Exhibition.

#### Coal Mines Bonus and Provident Fund Scheme

\*1074. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any collieries in India where the Coal Mines Bonus and Provident Fund Scheme has not yet been applied; and
- (b) if so, the names of the collieries and the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Coal Mines Bonus Scheme and the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme have not so far been applied to the collieries in the—

- (1) Tribal areas of Assam.
- (2) Borshora Colliery, Assam.
- (3) Hassa Colliery, Kutch.

The Coal Mines Bonus Scheme has been extended to the collieries in Rajasthan and Hyderabad but the provisions of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme have not yet been extended to these collieries.

It has not been possible to apply these Schemes to the said collieries due to some practical difficulties. The matter is, however, under active consideration of the Government of India.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know the number of workers for whom this Provident Fund Scheme is not in force. Some collieries have been stated.

**Shri Abid Ali:** In the Tribal areas of Assam, there are about 1300 workers. The mines are about 260. These are manned mostly by the family members of the owners themselves. In the Borshora Colliery, Assam, there are 411 workers. The scheme could not be applied there because although the mine is situated in Indian territory, the workers have to pass through Pakistan area and there they have Pakistan currency. The management is willing to apply the Scheme, but there is difficulty about getting the exchange. In the Hassa Colliery, Kutch, there are only 3 workers.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know if the Government are aware of the fact that the owners of the Sasti collieries in Hyderabad have formulated a scheme on the lines of the Provident Fund Scheme and started recovery, but the Labour Inspector intervened and stopped that recovery?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I take the information from the hon. Member.

**Shri Kamath:** And enquire into it?

#### Bezwada Railway Station

\*1075. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what will be the capacity of the marshalling yard of Bezwada Railway Station after its re-modelling?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** 1058 wagons per day.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know when this will be completed?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I cannot give an exact date. In May 1955, a sum of Rs. 88.3 lakhs was sanctioned for extension of the yard. Work is already in progress and we have made a 3.3 per cent progress.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know how far this re-modelling will reduce the bottleneck at Bezwada?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** It will reduce it to a very great extent. At present, the Bezwada-Madras line can cope with about 300 wagons daily. We hope to step it up to 420 wagons a day. This would be quite enough for all the traffic except the coal traffic which has to move by sea.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** May I be permitted to ask one question on this question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** I am sorry.

#### Railway Coaches

\*1077. **Shrimati Shrivrajvati Nehru:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that in the new type of Railway Coaches with corridors the accommodation below the berths is insufficient to accommodate the luggage of passengers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the space in between the lower berths is so narrow that passengers cannot move freely with their luggage scattered on the floor; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to adopt to obviate inconvenience to passengers ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahaswaz Khan):** (a) No. It is adequate for luggage that should normally be carried in compartments.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**श्रीमती शिवराजवती नेहरू :** क्या मैं पूछ सकती हूँ कि जो नई कोचेज बन रही हैं उनकी सीट्स ऐसी बनायी गयी हैं कि उनके नीचे सामान अच्छी तरह से रक्खा जा सके और स्पेस ज्यादा हो ?

**श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ :** जो सीटें बनाई गई हैं उनके ग़ौर फर्श के बीच में एक फुट का फासला है जो कि बहुत मुनासिब फासला माना गया है और यह उम्मीद की जाती है कि जो मुसाफिर इन डिब्बों में सफर करेंगे वे बहुत बड़े बड़े बक्स अपने साथ नहीं ले जायेंगे।

**श्रीमती शिवराजवती नेहरू :** जो पुश (Push) पाइप बाथ रूम में लगे हुए हैं वे बहुत परिश्रम से खुलते हैं। क्या सरकार ऐसे पाइप फिट करेगी जो कि घासानी से खुल सकें।

**श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ :** इस राय के ऊपर नीर किया जायेगा।

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** 1078. May I request the Labour Minister to take up Question No. 1106 also ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it related? Is it convenient ?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** I have no objection. But, they are not related.

**Mr. Speaker:** Both of them relate to *bidis*.

#### Bidi Workers in Agartala

\*1078. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employers of Kulighat Bidi Factory of Agartala dismissed a number of workers in 1955;

(b) whether the workers' Union referred the dispute to Government for adjudication; and

(c) if so, the reason for not adjudicating in the dispute ?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Eight workmen were discharged in July 1955.

(b) and (c). The question of referring the matter for adjudication did not arise as the dispute had been settled by agreement.

#### Bidi Workers in Agartala

\*1106. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minimum wages for the Bidi workers of Agartala (Tripura) have been fixed;

(b) if so, the wages fixed;

(c) whether the fixed rate is being implemented; and

(d) if not, the steps, that Government propose to take in this regard ?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 1/12/- per 1000 *bidis*.

(c) No.

(d) The difficulty is that the workers and employers concerned have reached an agreement for a lower rate. I am considering what can be done in this situation.

**Shri Biren Dutt:** May I know whether this dispute, when settled, again arose and the owner did not agree to this solution and so the workers were not given their dues and their employment? Is it not a fact that the Conciliation Officer had to write for adjudication, but it was not referred?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No. According to our information, under the settlement, the workers were to be re-employed, but they did not wish to be re-employed. So, they did not join duty.

**Shri Biren Dutt:** Is it not a fact that the minimum wage fixed by the Government had not been paid by any owner in Tripura after the promulgation of the Minimum Wages Act ?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes. I have already stated in reply to the main question that the minimum wage as was originally fixed has not been paid because of settlement between