

remote areas. That is why this question is so very important, because none of the labour laws or safety rules is observed there.

Mr. Speaker: We do appreciate the importance of that. But he has said that a magisterial enquiry is being carried on. About compensation also he has said that he will have it looked into.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The question is very obvious. Information regarding compensation or interim relief was bound to be asked, and the hon. Minister should have anticipated that.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: This is an omnibus question, where if some information was required from the Labour Ministry I would have looked into it. The question relates to an unfortunate explosion (*Interruption*). There was an unfortunate explosion. This factory and the magazine were both inspected by the Inspector of Explosives, Calcutta, only a few months before the unfortunate accident took place. After that every possible action has been taken. The police has taken up the case. The persons concerned have been arrested and, I believe, they are on bail. We are looking into the matter. I assure the House, about this question of giving any compensation, I will refer it to my colleague in the Labour Ministry.

Wage Board for Working Journalists

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*348. { Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) when the decisions of the first Wage Board for Working Journalists are due to expire;

(b) whether the pay scales fixed three years ago have become inadequate to meet the journalists' present requirements; and

(c) Government's reaction to the

demand for appointment of a second Wage Board?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). Presumably the hon. Member refers to the recommendations of the Working Journalists Wage Committee. Government order fixing wage rates in terms of the recommendations of that Committee was issued on the 29th May, 1959. Under the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958, another Wage Board can be appointed only after the expiry of three years from that date. The demand for the appointment of a second Wage Board is being examined.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: According to what the hon. Minister just now stated, the previous award will expire on the 29th of this month itself. I would, therefore, like to know whether the question of appointing the second Wage Board is under active consideration and whether we can expect an early decision?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir. The question is under active consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the Ministry had any discussion with the representatives of the working journalists; if so, whether they have also given their idea about the appointment of a Wage Board or Wage Committee?

Shri Hathi: I had discussions with them and, of course, they suggested that a second wage board should be appointed.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a fact that after the decision of the wage board there is a pronounced boom in the industry which is not reflected in the structure of the wage? If so, what actions are being taken by the Government to correct this imbalance?

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): These factors will be taken into consideration while taking a decision about the setting up a wage board.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि प्रथम वेज बोर्ड की जो शर्तें थीं उन का भी पूरी तरह से पालन नहीं किया गया ? इस लिये क्या गवर्नमेंट विचार कर रही है कि दूसरे वेज बोर्ड की स्थापना करने से पहले उन का कठोरता से पालन किया जाये ?

Shri Hathi: No. In the beginning there were some complaints about non-implementation, but since then we have not received any complaint.

Shri Ansar Harvani: Is the Government aware that big newspaper owners have devised various methods to evade the recommendations of the wage board? Does the Government propose to bring forward some measures so that they might protect the working journalists?

Shri Hathi: As I said in the beginning, we received some complaints earlier. Of late there has been no complaint.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I suggest that Question Nos. 349 and 370 may be taken together, as they relate to the same subject?

Mr. Speaker: All right, if the hon. Minister has no objection.

Dandakaranya Scheme

***349. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far achieved in developing an integrated scheme of rehabilitation in Dandakaranya;

(b) the extent of the area already reclaimed and made ready for accommodating displaced persons and the additional area that is proposed to be further reclaimed;

(c) the targets that have been determined for rehabilitating displaced persons from East Bengal in Dandakaranya by the end of the current year;

(d) whether there has been any demand from States other than West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to make this area available for rehabilitation of their own people; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to comply with such demands and under what conditions?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) The progress has been satisfactory.

(b) Nearly 53,000 acres have been fully reclaimed till 28th February, 1962. It is hoped to reclaim another about 40,000 acres during the next working season.

(c) Another about 3,000 families in addition to 4,400 which have already arrived in Dandakaranya.

(d) and (e). The State Governments of Assam, Kerala and Punjab have made the suggestion for the settlement of families from those States in Dandakaranya. For the present, settlement in Dandakaranya is open only to those families who were in Camps in West Bengal.

Rehabilitation of East Bengal D.Ps. in Dandakaranya

***370. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to account for the slow movement of the displaced persons from East Bengal to Dandakaranya despite the facilities afforded by the Dandakaranya Project for their rehabilitation;

(b) if the answer to Part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government will give their findings; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a non-official Committee to study the problem of rehabilitation of the displaced persons from East Bengal in all its phases?