

factories (Mica industry) in Nellore District during the years 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(b) the total number of workers employed in the month of June, 1951; and

(c) what was the number of workers employed in June, 1952?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

बिहार कोयला खानों के मजदूर

५३३. **शेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या खन मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५१-५२ में, बिहार को कोयले की खानों में निम्न वर्ग के मजदूरों की संख्या क्या थी :

- (१) स्त्रियाँ ;
- (२) गर्भवती स्त्रियाँ ;
- (३) दूध पिलाने वाली मातायें ; और
- (४) पन्द्रह वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चे ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (i) About 34,604.

(ii) In 1951, 3,486 women gave notice under the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, that they expected babies within one month from the dates of notice. Some of the pregnant women might not have given notice for the reason that they were not entitled to Maternity Benefit: the benefit applies only if a woman has been in employment in a mine or mines belonging to the same owner for at least six months preceding the date of delivery, and if absence without permission during this period does not exceed 26 days.

(iii) I regret that the information is not available. Though I have no doubt that several persons of category (ii) must have been subsequently transferred to this category, during the year.

(iv) The Mines Act prohibits employment of children under 15 years of age.

CLAIMS COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURAL CLAIMS

534. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Claims Commissioner for agricultural claims in

the Claims Organisation of the Rehabilitation Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are his qualifications for agricultural claims and what is his experience in land work?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) There are two Claims Commissioners for verification of agricultural land claims.

(b) A statement showing their qualifications is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 18.]

ACCIDENTS IN NELLORE MICA MINES

535. **Shri Nana Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the accidents that have occurred in the Mica mines in Nellore District of the Madras State from 1948 to 1952 were the results of misfires of explosives;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents;

(c) how many lives have been lost in these accidents; and

(d) what steps have been taken to stop these accidents?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). Seven out of eleven fatal accidents which occurred in the mica mines in Nellore District from 1948 to July 1952 were caused by explosives.

(c) Ten.

(d) Necessary instructions as to how to avoid accidents by drilling into mis-fired shot-holes have been issued to the managements of all the mines. To enforce the provisions of the Indian Mines Act and Regulations made thereunder effectively, a Junior Inspector of Mines has been posted at Nellore since 24-5-50. He organised classes for blasters and supervising staff of mines in 1950. Since then many of the blasters employed in that area have been examined by the Junior Inspector and the District Superintendent of Police and have been granted certificates to show that they are qualified to use explosives in mines. Adequate provision for the examination and certification of blasters has been made in the revised regulations for metalliferous mines which are now under consideration of the Government. The managements have also been requested to notify all appointments of shot-firers and to appoint only such persons as have been granted certificates of competency.